

Still Buffering 203: "Friends" (1994)

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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 Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Kids are weird, y'all.

Taylor: Yup.

Raleigh: We're on a roll with these, just... Jumping right in.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Just jumped right in there. She's ready to go!

Raleigh: These cold opens are just...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Wow.

Sydnee: Just saying, kids are weird.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: And is that is a general statement, or is this a... Just a recent discovery?

Sydnee: Uh—

Raleigh: Your kids, all kids?

Sydnee: Well I mean, it's both, but uh... I was gonna say they're weird cause Charlie has seen the *Sonic the Hedgehog* movie twice now. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Loved it so much the first time, had to go back for a second—

Raleigh: Who has seen it with her, twice? Because she can't go to movies by herself?

Sydnee: Uh, well Justin took her the first time—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: Which Justin had to—He was discussing it, on another podcast, and so he had to see it.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And he talked Charlie into coming with him, thinking "There's a chance she won't like this, but maybe she will come with me." And she did. She liked it. She liked it a great deal. So much so, that when, uh... Clint and Carol invited her to come, she said "Yeah! I want to come again. I want to see this movie—"

Raleigh: That's almost as many times as she saw *Frozen 2*.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: She saw that three times, yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But still, yeah. So she has seen it twice. Do you think she's the only person who's seen it twice?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: No. I feel like that's what kids do though, right? They like a thing, and then they just... That's their thing.

Sydnee: [sighs] Well, that—I mean that is true. I have watched *Spongebob the Musical*... Uh, fifty, sixty... Seventy times—you think I'm exaggerating? There are days where it's been on twice.

Taylor: Wow.

Raleigh: I think I've actually seen that, like thirty times.

Taylor: It's—

Raleigh: And I don't live with them.

Sydnee: I know every song, I know every line. I could perform it—Well, I'm not that talented. There are some really impressive dance and acrobatic moves in that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I couldn't do those. But, I could at least say "A split is being done now." I can't do a split, but—

Raleigh: I know when it is!

Sydnee: But I know that a split should be done.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Cooper knows all the lines and all the words.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: All the songs.

Sydnee: I love to hear her...

Raleigh: Just kind of— [vocalizing]

Sydnee: [imitating Cooper singing] "Hello Bikini Bottom!"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Well, I saw *Sonic* without a child. I saw it with a bunch of adults, so I don't know— [crosstalk]

Raleigh: That's—

Taylor: That was a choice. I don't think I got quite as much joy out of it as um, as Charlie has clearly gotten. [laughs]

Sydnee: Do you feel like it's worthy of a second go-around?

Taylor: I wouldn't want to see it a second time. Uh, I don't know. It was a weird movie! I... I loved Jim Carrey's performance in it? Like I wish that it had just been him on the screen for two hours, being weird. But—

Sydnee: Did you—Did you ever think you would say "I wish Jim Carrey would be—" [laughing]

Taylor: Yeah! [laughing]

Sydnee: "I wanna see a movie that is just Jim Carrey for two hours, being weird!"?

Taylor: I think that's... That's—I've been saying that since the first time I saw Jim Carrey in a movie. I don't know! I—There was never a time where I'm not down for... Like, Jim Carrey at his weirdest. For long periods of time.

Sydnee: There-I don't know what that is! There is a very specific, uh, sense of humor that Jim Carrey at his "Jim Carrey-est" appeals to, and apparently it's you, Tay. And also Justin!

Taylor: I—

Sydnee: Because Jim Carrey at his absolute max, like that is totally Justin's thing. And it never was—Like, I didn't particularly enjoy *The Mask*, didn't particularly enjoy *Ace Ventura*. I mean like, not there—I'm not saying they're bad. I'm not passing judgment. Just not... Not really my... Thing. You know?

Raleigh: Yeah. I get that. I think I'm with you on that one.

Taylor: I think because it's so much of comedy is like—Oh it's you know, it's like "Oh, it's smart humor!" Like... "I put all this effort into this buildup, and like deliver it!" And I'm like—It's kind of like, "Oh you're funny but I'm also a little afraid of you cause you might come at me."

And with Jim Carrey, his kind of comedy, it's just like "I'm putting it all out there, I'm going 150%. I'm gonna look pretty dumb when I do it, and I'm—" It's like: all in, for you. [laughs] Like, I don't know! It's a very like... I enjoy that. It's a gleeful, bizarre comedy, that I—It makes me very happy.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It is an evolution, too. I think that like you get—So like, your appreciation for Jim Carrey when you're young is like "He's so funny! I love *Ace Ventura!*" And then you get a little older, and you're like "I'm more into, you know, *The Truman Show*, is more of the Jim Carrey that I appreciate."

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And then you can come full circle as an adult, and be like "Nah, I just loved *Ace Ventura*. It was very funny."

Raleigh: Yeah. *Ace Ventura* was very funny.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughing a little]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I also only recently realized that, I don't know. It's just like getting older, like wearing what I want and not caring as much about like trying to look stylish. And one of my coworkers pointed out, was like "You kind of dress like *Ace Ventura*, these days!" [laughs] Cause I was wearing—

[All three start laughing]

Taylor: Like a Hawaiian button-up, and I had like plaid pants on and a t-shirt. And I'm like "You think?" And they're like "Yeah!" And I was like "Is that a good thing?"

I mean, it's a thing! Like okay, I'm just gonna roll with it. My hair sticks up, it's like— [laughs]

Sydnee: It's a thing! [laughs]

Raleigh: It is a thing, indeed.

Taylor: It's like, I'm not, I'm not mad! Cause, you know? Everybody's gotta have a style. If that's mine, it's... you know? It came from it's natural evolution.

Sydnee: I think that's fine. So—But you are not in a hurry to go see *Sonic* again?

Taylor: The rest—It was just very strange. I mean, it was charming. It's a kid's movie. I'm not gonna like... Skewer a kid's movie.

Sydnee: Sure.

Taylor: It was meant for children.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I don't know what I went in expecting... Like I had just seen *Birds of Prey* a few weeks ago; I loved it! And I was like, kind of had like similar like—I felt like the same people were talking about both movies, and so I was like "Oh! Maybe this is— Oh. This is for kids." This is for kids. That one was for me, this one's for kids. That's good. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, I will say that I—I didn't see the movie. I saw like, trailers of it and clips from it and stuff, and like I feel like that whatever made Sonic's teeth so upsetting in the original—

Taylor: [laughs] Yeah.

Sydnee: Ads—Like, they fixed that, right?

Taylor: They did. Oh yeah.

Raleigh: Right. They were very upsetting.

Sydnee: It did not look upsetting, when I saw clips of the final product.

Taylor: No, they definitely fixed the CGI. And it doesn't look bad. Um... I just—It was I guess, you know? That moment of like... What's... James Marsden's? Is that the actor in that movie?

Sydnee: Um, I believe that's right.

Taylor: Very, very handsome man. Uh... He's like cradling the like CGI Sonic in a very intense scene, and I guess it's supposed to be emotional. That was that moment where I was like "This is weird, still."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: "It's still weird!" [laughing] Like I can't--[laughing] "I can't get into this."

Sydnee: I liked Charlie telling me—At one point, she was telling me about the movie, and she goes "See, there are these gold rings..." And I was like "Yeah, no. I'm—"

Raleigh: I get it.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: "I'm familiar with the gold rings, Charlie." [laughs] I played *Sonic the Hedgehog* on Sega Genesis when I was young.

Taylor: I know what those do!

Sydnee: I'm familiar.

Raleigh: Kids do have interesting perceptions of films, because just today, Cooper was listening to the *Cats*—Not the original Broadway soundtrack, the—

Sydnee: Nope! We only listen to movie one, here!

Raleigh: The movie soundtrack.

Taylor: Oh no.

Raleigh: And Charlie turned it on, and Cooper was listening to it, and I said "Cooper, who is that, that's singing?" And she said "Daddy's friends!" [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing]

Raleigh: "Are they? Okay."

Sydnee: They both think Justin has been in *Cats*, for some reason.

Raleigh: [laughing] Do they? Okay.

Sydnee: Because today, we—I don't know why. Cause Charlie today was listening to *Cats* and dancing, and she came over and started pulling on Justin to stand up, and said "Come on daddy. You know this whole dance! Do it with me!" And I was like—[laughs] "Why do you—Wait. Why do you

think daddy knows the dance?" And she said "Cause he was in it!" And I'm like—

Raleigh: Who does she—Who did she think he was?

Sydnee: I don't know—It was just the opening number, so I don't know who... Like this has all of the Jellicles, so I'm not sure which one... [laughs] She thinks Justin is—Or like what? Was he in the Broadway one, or in the movie? Or in like a community theater production—I don't know what she thinks, but she, they both seem to think Justin has a lot of *Cats* expertise.

Taylor: Can you make this like a family lie that will just live on?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: That Justin was in the original Broadway cast of *Cats*!

Taylor: Yes! And like, I don't know. On Charlie's like 18th birthday, say "Okay, here's the thing—" [laughs] "I'm gonna let you in on a secret! You're father was never in *Cats*!"

Raleigh: You're father was never in *Cats*.

Sydnee: [laughing] Happy birthday, welcome to adulthood!

Taylor: "My whole life, I grew up thinking..."

Sydnee: [pretend crying] "I always was told my dad was in *Cats*, and then I turn 18 and I find out it was all a lie!"

Raleigh: That's her interesting fact, like every first day of school ice-breaker. She's like "Well my dad was in *Cats*!"

Sydnee: And everybody in the room is like "No he wasn't!"

Raleigh: "It's a lie. No he was definitely was not."

Sydnee: "He wasn't!"

Taylor: That's a lot... That's a lot for a therapist to deal with, someday! "Yeah, my family just lied to me for eighteen years about this cause they thought it was funny. It was just a joke—It's just a joke. It was funny. That's why they did it!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Although at that point in history, what will our view of *Cats* be? Will it be forgotten?

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: *Cats* does not seem to go—I don't think *Cats* will ever go away.

Raleigh: I mean this *Cats*.

Sydnee: People—Oh. The movie?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: Oh no. This *Cats* gonna—It's gonna be a cult, like...

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Classic that people watch every Halloween, like... I don't know. I'm excited to have it accessible—

Raleigh: [laughs] I am excited about it!

Taylor: Absolutely!

Sydnee: I'm excited—Yes. I'm excited that it's part of the Zeitgeist. I like it.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah, I do too.

Sydnee: I welcome it. I welcome it into my appreciation of the world. Everything that makes the world a little stranger, um...

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Is good. [laughs] Is good for me.

Taylor: Well I mean, you know what? I think it achieved the level of bad that means it's like... Somehow circled back around to amazing? Like I love when things do that! [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Welcome...

Taylor: [laughing]

Sydnee: Welcome—Come in.

Taylor: Yes!

Sydnee: *The Room* is here waiting for you. [laughs]

Taylor: It was a long and hard journey, but you've made it. [still laughing]

Sydnee: You've made it. You're here. Thank you. Please come in.

Also the dancing is very impressive.

Raleigh: It is.

Sydnee: Just on a side note. It—

Raleigh: In every version of *Cats*.

Sydnee: It—Yes. And it's not enough is said—It's a shame. Cause not enough was ever said about like in the movie version, uh the dancing. If you can focus on the dancing, it is... It's incredible. It's incredible.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, the talent. It's just incredible.

Anyway. Uh, that's not—Speaking of old things that never go away,--

Taylor: [laughs] Oh no!

Raleigh: That's a good lead in! That's good.

Sydnee: [laughing] Was that good? Uh, I want to talk about *Friends*.

Taylor: Ah...

Sydnee: Not like...

Raleigh: Our friends?

Sydnee: Not our friends.

Raleigh: We can talk about my friends.

Sydnee: Not like my friends, not like my actual friends. The fake ones that we all had on T.V for a while.

Raleigh: Oh, okay.

Sydnee: Our fake friends.

Taylor: The clique that—[crosstalk]

Sydnee: Not that they're fake—

Raleigh: Joey, and the Chandler—

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And the Rachel, and... Yeah. All them.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Uh, because... Here's why. One, of course I think a lot of us just need to stand up and admit that there was a moment in your life where you loved *Friends*. Not everyone, but there were a lot of us.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And a lot of us have grown up and realize that there were problems.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: With friends.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Many. Problems. Uh, and perhaps can now take a more critical view of *Friends* while simultaneously admitting that deep down... You still do kind of like it. A little.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: At least a little. Or at least appreciate parts of it.

Now, I am from that generation. What is confusing to me about *Friends*, and why I think it is an interesting podcast topic, is that it seems to have connected to... Your generation, Rileigh.

Rileigh: Yes. Yeah.

Sydnee: Cause you all watch it. Or at least, did when it was on Netflix.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Sydnee: [whispers] Why?

Rileigh: I don't know. I don't know, like... I mean obviously I have watched—honestly, when it was still on Netflix, I think I watched the entire series. Not fully and like, attentive-watching it, but probably watched through all of it at least like... All the episodes two or three times. Um... But it was just like a very... Bland, meh—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Just something to like put on and like kind of just like turn your brain off, and not have to think too hard... Those like sitcoms that are just like... They're some, maybe a few chuckles in there, you're gonna get out of it. But really it's just, nothing's gonna require you to put too much brain effort into it—

Sydnee: But—

Rileigh: Until you get to the problematic parts of it, when you're watching it in the year like, I don't know. I guess I've probably started watching it in like 2016.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Rileigh: Something like that, and I was like "Yeah this is... There's some..."

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: "There's some issues here." But then you gotta wonder, like well how much of that was expected in the 90's, because I wasn't there then, so how much of it was just like "This is how people talk"? I don't know! Like—

Sydnee: [laughing]

Taylor: Wait! So was it—Did you like it, or is it just like, is it just the streaming equivalent of white noise?

Sydnee: [laughs harder]

Taylor: And I think that term works on *many* levels! [laughing]

Sydnee: It is like white noise! [laughing]

Taylor: It is white noise! [laughs harder]

Raleigh: It's very much white noise. It was a little bit of both.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: The whitest noise.

Raleigh: There are certainly some episodes and some moments, and some characters that I like did enjoy. And some episodes I went back and re-watched on purpose. Or like, things I liked to see. Like...

Admittedly— [coughs] Rachel and Ross's whole like "Will-they-won't-they", I was always like—

Sydnee: That's what I was gonna say, how do you feel about it?

Raleigh: I was always like "Oh man! Like it keeps going back and forth." And I always liked to find the episodes where there were like big moments, and like their romantic storyline.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Raleigh: But also—

Sydnee: He's her lobster...

Raleigh: He's her lobster!

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: But also there were like... I don't know. There were definitely times where I just needed to put something on in the background while I was trying to fall asleep, while I was reading, doing homework, whatever. And it was... It was good to have on there, as well.

Sydnee: It's just, it's interesting cause it's—There are other sitcoms...
[laughs] Period.

Taylor: There are! There are.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: [laughing]

Taylor: But you know—

Raleigh: But like, like what?

Sydnee: I just mean like what—Did you do that with *How I met your Mother*?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: [sighs]

Sydnee: *Scrubs*?

Raleigh: And *The Office*. And *Parks and Rec*. Uh... I've watched some *Scrubs*.

Sydnee: Huh. Well maybe it's just that... Kids today watch all the shows.
[laughs]

Taylor: Maybe—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: So you always have something on? I mean you're not alone in that, I guess. I had a roommate, a while back—And like now I feel like I've just been like, I can't... The theme song of *Friends* now just puts me in a state of anxiety—

Sydnee: m-hmm.

Taylor: Cause it was a very toxic living situation. It wasn't good. And the one thing that was always like, playing—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I don't—From morning to night she was always watching friends!

Raleigh: That's so true.

Taylor: We lived together for like—[laughs] Like three years? So it's not like she just watched it all, and like just went on to something else! Like, then would restart it. It was *always* on in the background of this house. Just, in every—

Sydnee: Oh my god. [crosstalk]

Raleigh: I remember visiting you for a week, and every time I was in your apartment, day or night—

Taylor: [laughs, then sighs]

Raleigh: No matter what time, that door was shut and I just constantly heard—

[sings the opening theme-song of *Friends*].

[all laugh]

Raleigh: Just, always!

Taylor: Yeah!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, it's like the *Jaws* theme song to me now. If I hear it out, I'm like "Please don't yell at me, oh god!" [laughs]

Sydnee: I'm sorry—I didn't realize that, when I picked this topic! I'm sorry—

Taylor: No, it's okay. We're not playing the song. That would be copyright infringement—

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: So it's okay. [laughs]

Sydnee: I will not play the song. Uh... I just—But like even—It's on t-shirts. Like there are so many... Uh, like... I was looking at Urban Outfitters. And there were all these like *Friends* t-shirts that you could buy.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And like, that merchandise is big again.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it's just—I found it odd.

Raleigh: I found a few, like old faded *Friends* t-shirts that I sleep in, that I got from Urban Outfitters.

Sydnee: And I guess it's like... I mean, there are like the classic elements of like, there's the romance that they manage to stretch out over all, how—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Eight seasons?

Raleigh: Eight?

Sydnee: How many seasons?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Something like that?

Raleigh: Oh gosh.

Sydnee: Many seasons. Um, and they managed to make it last the entire time.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I hope we're not spoiling! [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, it's spoilers for *Friends*! [laughing]

Raleigh: There's no way we're—[laughs] We're spoiling friends.

Sydnee: Is there anybody who doesn't know?

Raleigh: There's ten seasons.

Sydnee: Ten seasons. Man! Ten seasons.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, and uh... It's... I was always a little more invested, for myself, and Monica and Chandler.

Taylor: Yeah, they were definitely—

Raleigh: Well, cause you felt like Monica.

Sydnee: Yes. I related a lot more strongly to Monica, then.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Than Rachel.

Taylor: It was a lot more wholesome romance, I thought.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, Ross and Rachel was a little bit like “I don’t know. I think you are actually bad for each other.” I think objectively—

Raleigh: “I think they should actually not be together!” Yeah!

Taylor: Yeah! This is clearly not a—Why do you keep trying to make it work? You know you are in New York City. There are a lot of other people...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: In very close proximity, to you! You do not have to—[laughs] Be together!

Raleigh: I think Rachel should’ve ended up with Joey.

Taylor: Oh...

Sydnee: Oh no.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Joey deserved better! No, I don’t think so! [laughs]

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: Joey and Rachel were better than Rachel and Ross.

Sydnee: No, that didn’t make sense. No.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: No, I didn't like that at all. The cast didn't like that either. I read an article about that—

Taylor: Oh really?

Raleigh: Oh my gosh! [laughs]

Sydnee: When they handed out the scripts, and this was gonna be the plot line, even the cast was like "No! Joey wouldn't do that! No! This would never! No!"

Raleigh: Yeah... I don't know, I just liked Joey more than Ross.

Taylor: Well, I—I think that's a true statement.

Sydnee: Well—

Taylor: I think—

Sydnee: And: Yes.

Taylor: Joey's a much more—I think Joey is maybe, I think some of the friends have redeeming qualities. I think Joey is... Is... The most likeable friend, I think in the long run.

Raleigh: [laughs] I like that we just call them "the friends".

Sydnee: "The friends!" Yes. The friends. No but I... I feel bad, sometimes for Ross—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: As a person—

Raleigh: Okay, wait! [laughs]

Sydnee: A person that didn't really exist, but I guess if you're David Schwimmer and you play that character for ten years and it becomes this like... Much—Like a part of popular culture—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: As *Friends* did, and all the characters did, like it's gotta be hard like—Ross got hated on so much.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, even while the show was on. It wasn't just like in retrospect... We didn't like Ross very much. Like, while the show was on, there was a lot of Ross hate.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I never quite—I mean I know... I know he got kind of like whiney sometimes...

Raleigh: Sometimes?

Sydnee: [laughs] But I never quite—I didn't have the Ross hate that some people—

Raleigh: His personality trait was just like [Ross impression] "Guys... Wehh..."

[all laugh]

Sydnee: His personality was just a sound! "Aww...."

[everyone starts impersonating the Ross-complain noise]

Raleigh: That is! Like, that's what he was!

Sydnee: But he was also scientist!

Taylor: Well...

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: No. [laughs]

Sydnee: He was a paleontologist!

[pause]

Raleigh: We never got a clear look at what Ross did—

Sydnee: He taught!

Raleigh: At the museum, when he first worked at that museum.

Sydnee: Yeah, I don't know what he did there, but he did teach classes later because—

Rleigh: Because, to me when he was at that museum, he just like arranged the bones.

Taylor: Well somebody has to do it!

Sydnee: Well—

[all laugh]

Rleigh: Somebody has to do it! And I recognize that is an important job! [laughs] But he made it like he was like a doctor! It's like, no!

Sydnee: He is!

Taylor: I think you have to have some sort of degree to know where the dinosaur bones go, in the dinosaur. I think that—It's a lot of knowledge, there!

Sydnee: Yeah!

Rleigh: Okay, that's true. I would never know where dinosaur bones go in a dinosaur.

Sydnee: I mean, think how much harder that is, then like what I do. Like, if I need to know where all the human bones go, I always have the option of cutting a human open and looking.

Rleigh: Well, I guess you do have that option...

Taylor: Well, I... Do you have that option?

Sydnee: Ross didn't have—[laughs]

Taylor: Do you?

Sydnee: Ross didn't have that option!

Taylor: Sydnee...

Sydnee: There was no dinosaur for him to cut open and look at! He had to just... Figure out where they go!

Taylor: I like that this is your case you're building for why Ross is a good character.

Raleigh: Okay—

Taylor: "He knew where the dinosaur bones went! That was hard."

Raleigh: Yes!

Sydnee: I want to say—

Raleigh: You—No. You—

Sydnee: We have some paleontologist listeners—

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: I guarantee you, who are very upset!

Raleigh: That was not a thing. That was—No.

Taylor: No. He had—He had a real job. His job wasn't the mystery!

Raleigh: He did have a real job. I'm not trying to take a stab at his job. My problem was—

Sydnee: And PHDs are doctors—

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Just as much as I am. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes, I agree. But my problem was the way that he acted about it.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: He acted like he was better than all of the other friends, for his job.

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: Fair, right? Often?

Sydnee: He does have the—

Raleigh: He acted like he was, like the smart one.

Sydnee: Of course. Yes, he does have an air of superiority.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I did not enjoy that. That Ross was always kind of like that. Especially with the whole comment about like... Or the, whole the joke about unagi? [laughs] He thought it was like some, some like... Fancy state of mind... In some sort of culture... But really it was just a type of sushi roll.

Sydnee: Oh. [laughs]

Raleigh: I don't know.

Sydnee: I don't remember that!

Taylor: I was like, what? [laughs]

Sydnee: You know *Friends* better than I do!

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And it was this whole thing where Rachel was like "No, that's just like a... A salmon skin roll." [laughs] But no. Ross was sure it was this fancy term for—I don't know. It's been a while since I've seen *Friends*.

Sydnee: Yeah. But it—No, it was... I... Hmm. I'm beginning to worry that maybe I identified with Ross's air of superiority too much, and so I did not see it as—

Taylor: Ah...

Sydnee: Malignant, as it was.

Raleigh: Cause I saw it, like whenever he'd talk to Joey because Joey wanted to be an actor, and Rachel because Rachel wanted to... I mean, Rachel didn't really have a job, for a while.

Taylor: Well...

Raleigh: And then she was—

Taylor: She was a terrible waitress, for a while.

Raleigh: She was a *terrible* waitress.

Taylor: Man, those scenes, I can't—Like... I think if there's character I actually commiserate with, it's probably Gunther! [laughs] Because it's just like—

[all laugh]

Taylor: She like, just treats her job like it means nothing. And he still like kind of covers for her. Always running around the background, just dealing with these selfish, self-absorbed people, like just taking up space in his coffee house and completely disrespecting him. It's like, man. [laughs]

Raleigh: And they'll sit there forever, and...

Sydnee: I mean, they do drink coffee.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: They do buy a coffee.

Raleigh: Yeah, but like her job every week was, she grabs one tray of coffee that is only for her friends, the friends... Goes over and delivers it to them, and then sits down.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: [laughs] That is what she did!

Sydnee: Yeah, she probably would get fired.

Taylor: Yeah, I don't—

Raleigh: Like, Gunther was in love with her.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: So he did not.

Sydnee: There was that weird storyline.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's a weird little...

Raleigh: That was a weird storyline.

Sydnee: Throwaway.

Raleigh: Which was kind of in there a lot, consistently throughout the show?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: But never really... They didn't do much with it.

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um... Alright, we need to delve further into the things that made *Friends*... The good, the bad, and the ugly, of *Friends*. But before we do that—

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Uh, what do we have first?

Raleigh: "I am a small business owner and I sell *Friends* memorabilia. "

Sydnee: Hmm. That will do very well, these days. The young people love *Friends*.

Raleigh: I know. "And it is my passion, and I just can't do it enough, because I keep getting caught up with all of the tedious work that goes with my small business. Such as: Taxes—"

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Raleigh: That's probably tedious. "Books—", those are also tedious. "All those things, that I—Administrative tasks that I don't want to have to do. HoneyBook does them for me. They take them off my to-do list, so I can't focus on all my *Friends* memorabilia love. They're an online business management tool that organizes your client communications, bookings, contracts, and invoices, all in one place. It's perfect for freelancers, entrepreneurs like myself, small business owners like myself, that want to consolidate services they already use, like QuickBooks, Google Suite, Excel, Mailchimp. HoneyBook works as all of those, and overall just simplifies your to-do list, so you can focus on the great parts of your job and can... Not worry so much about those tedious tasks you don't want to spend too much time on."

So, Teylor, if our listeners want to check out HoneyBook, what should they do?

Teylor: Well right now, HoneyBook is offering our listeners 50% off, when you visit honeybook.com/buffering. Payment is flexible, and this promotion applies whether you pay monthly or annually, so go to honeybook.com/buffering for 50% off your first year.

Sydnee: Uh... Do you all ever get tired of deciding, like when you're going to class or work, like "Is this going to be a comfortable day or a stylish day?"

Teylor: Mmm. Yup.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: And having to like sacrifice one for the other?

Raleigh: All the time.

Sydnee: I do too, and thanks to Betabrand, I don't have to make that decision anymore, because their dress pant yoga pants are both comfortable and stylish.

Raleigh: What?

Sydnee: Yes! So you don't have to face that awful choice every morning. You... Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants are super comfy, they're stretchy, they don't get wrinkly, so even if you're like me, going from like working and trying to look like a professional business woman—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: Dr. Business-woman.

Raleigh: Dr. Business-woman?

Sydnee: I'm not business—I don't do business. I do doctor—

Raleigh: That's you, Dr. Business-woman.

Sydnee: Dr. Business-woman—[laughs] That does not do any business, let me be clear. But I do do doctor...Ing.

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: Uh—[laughs]

Raleigh: [unintelligible]

Sydnee: [through laughter] Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants cover me throughout my work day, and then I get home, and I can roll around on the floor with my kids, and be comfortable and not have to worry about, you know, stretching out or wrinkling up my pants.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: And don't feel the need to like, "I got to get out of these things, they're so uncomfortable."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, it's really nice! And there are dozens of colors, and patterns, and cuts, and styles. They've got boot cut, straight-leg, skinny, cropped, and now premium denim.

Raleigh: Wow.

Sydnee: So, uh—

Raleigh: Lots of options.

Sydnee: If our—Lots of options. If our listeners wanna check out Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants, what should they do, Teylor?

Teylor: Well right now, our listeners can get 20% off their first order, if you go to [Betabrand.com/buffering](https://betabrand.com/buffering). That's 20% off your first order at betabrand.com/buffering.

Sydnee: Okay, so, *Friends*. We—I... As we have said, I think we need to make clear: This is not like a *Friends* uh, *Friends* love fest.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: *Friends* was definitely, as—It's funny to hear you say it Raleigh, but like... It was this just, the way things were in the 90's. I mean unfortunately in the media landscape, yeah—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, the jokes that are made, and the—

Raleigh: Yeah, I certainly didn't mean like "Everyone interacting with each other, all the time in the 90's."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I just mean like popular culture. Well... Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, I mean it was really—it was poorly representative of... Most of actual society.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And very representative of a tiny little piece—

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You know? I mean, like that's all you saw, um because of the people who were making the shows, and who were green lighting the shows, and writing the shows, and in—And then also in the shows. Like you didn't get to see much else, and as a result, you also have like a lot of jokes in it that are uh... Insensitive in a variety of ways.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Whatever "ist" you wanna... I mean—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You can find examples of, you know. Racist jokes, sexist jokes, certainly homophobic jokes—

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Um... Transphobic, specifically jokes, um... All of that is unfortunately present in *Friends*, and I think again, that's why it—it's one of those things that I assumed would just kind of fade away now.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Sydnee: Because like, it—I remember the first, like... Kind of whispers of that, where people who would watch it and go “How do these people afford these apartments?”

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: “And why aren’t they at work?” Like—

Raleigh: That was one of my first thoughts, always.

Sydnee: How are they paying for them, cause... They’re rarely at work, and if they are, they’re not working. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Also, Monica has this great huge apartment, that they have to make clear at one point, was handed down to her from family.

Taylor: Yeah, rent control, yeah.

Raleigh: But right across the hall is Joey and Chandler’s apartment, which is wildly different. And so much smaller! But it’s right across the hall from Monica’s apartment that is this huge big, like...

Sydnee: It is strange they’re both two bedrooms, and one is so much larger than the other.

Raleigh: So much larger! It has a balcony, it has like... Multiple bathrooms, and then Joey and Chandler’s is just like this... Tiny little kitchen, living room area, and then two bedrooms.

Sydnee: Does it have multiple bathrooms? I thought it just had one.

Raleigh: I thought it had the one, and then one back... I don’t know. I’m not going to go into—[laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, I can’t—[laughs].

Raleigh: The homes of *Friends* characters. But they are very different apartments.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: It’s not like—My understanding of an apartment building, typically, would be like they’re all pretty much the same... Space.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Maybe laid out differently, but like the same space.

Taylor: Well—

Sydnee: Maybe, but... but in New York, you might be chopping them up sometimes to make room for more units, right?

Taylor: Yeah, I mean that's like—You'll see, like—I've moved into buildings where like some of the units have been bought and refurbished so they can rent them at higher costs, but then some of the older ones—

Raleigh: Hmm, yeah.

Taylor: That have things like rent control or whatever, they're still the original... Like, layout or unit?

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: So, I don't know. I mean, stuff like that does go on. Like I've definitely lived in places where I'll see my neighbor open their door, I'm like "Wait! What's going on in there?" [laughs] Like "What do you—"

Raleigh: "Where'd all that come from?" [laughs]

Taylor: "What do you have in there?" [laughing]

Sydnee: But it is weird that—I mean like... And I mean, that was the first thing that was talked about, like Joey is a struggling actor.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Who can pay half of the rent.

Raleigh: Which is wild, because by "Struggling actor", we mean—I think we see him have, what? Like probably less than five jobs?

Sydnee: Well he gets—

Taylor: But he's on that soap opera for a while, right?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Not until later, though!

Sydnee: “Dr. Drake Ramore?”

Raleigh: Cause at first, he’s like—Remember? He’s a butt-double for uh...

Sydnee: Yes, he’s a butt-double and he—

Raleigh: For Al Pachino? Is that right? Am I remembering that correctly?

Sydnee: Is that who it is? He is a butt-double. And he also does an ad for STI testing doesn’t he?

Raleigh: Yes, and he was in a weird... Play, about Freud, at one point.

Sydnee: Anyway, with all—With this, he manages—[starts laughing] To pay—

Raleigh: But he pays half the rent in this pretty sizable New York Apartment.

Taylor: Hmm...

Raleigh: With those jobs.

Sydnee: Which we assume Chandler must pick up more than his fair share, because he has—

Raleigh: But I don’t know what he does.

Sydnee: Nonspecific, boring job.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Nonspecific boring business job.

Raleigh: They do make a joke about that, at one point. Where no one knows what Chandler does. They’re all playing this game of how well they know each other, and one of the questions is they have to ask Monica, like “What is Chandler’s job title?”

Sydnee: Mm-hmm?

Raleigh: No one knows what Chandler’s job title is.

Taylor: Now, have we considered that maybe they just all have trust funds? [laughs]

Raleigh: Now that's more likely.

Taylor: Some of them?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Maybe all of them? I don't know.

Raleigh: At least Rachel's up-front about it! At least Rachel's like "Yeah... Guys... Like my parents are like, giving me all my money to be here."
[laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. Yes, that is made very clear.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And, I mean, Phoebe is the most... Like, realistic in that sense, where like she talks about her struggles to like—

Taylor: That's true.

Sydnee: Get to a point where she can support herself, and all the different ways she's had to make money. You know, she's had multiple jobs at once. I think she... Lived in her... Like, did she live in a car for a while, maybe?

Taylor: Yes. She lived in a taxi, right?

Raleigh: That sounds right. Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah. So, I mean like Phoebe is more realistic in that sense!
[laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. And she moved into her own apartment, which I find very like... This is better, right?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Like, as the friends all get older, it's like "Do you really still live with roommates when you're married?" [laughs]

Taylor: Well... [laughs]

Raleigh: And like, in your thirties? [laughing]

Sydnee: [sighs]

Taylor: Actually, I think it would be way more realistic, uh, to— [laughs]

Raleigh: If they all lived together? Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah! I think living alone into your—Like, I don't know. That's... That's kind of like a... That's an achievement, I think, you know? I've—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Plenty of people live with like—They're married and they share a place with another roommate. Like couples, even people with kids—

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: It's—I don't know. [laughs]

Raleigh: I'm not an adult in the adult world. I don't know how things work. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, in New York City, I think. I don't—That's not the rest—I mean it's not a lot of the country, but definitely here I think that—

Raleigh: Right.

Taylor: You know? You can never—

Raleigh: That's fair.

Taylor: There is no—It's not like somebody shows up at your door at 33, and is like "It'd be weird for you to have roommates now! Move into your own place!" Nope! [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well—But I think that speaks to like how it was... Not reflective.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It was like looking into a world that most of us do not live in.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, or can't really identify with, uh... Because of that. And like the idea that like you would... Date somebody, and then have a really horrible

break-up, and then like just have lunch together with all your friends the next week or whatever.

Raleigh: Yeah...

Sydnee: I mean, that's weird.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um... Also, they live in New York City and we never see them do anything, for ten years, other than be in their apartments and drink coffee. And I saying like all the time, always, that is all they do.

Taylor: You know, that's about what I've done for ten years. I don't—That doesn't...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Sydnee: I was gonna say, "Now Tey—"

Raleigh: Well no, like—

Sydnee: "I'm betting that's actually pretty true!" [laughs] [crosstalk]

Raleigh: They don't do anything! Like this show could be anywhere, because there is nothing about it, ever, rarely, that is... New York specific.

Taylor: I feel like that is a little accurate, though? I don't know... I think that's—

Raleigh: I just always felt like that was like... This could be anywhere.

Sydnee: You're not hanging out at the Statue of Liberty every weekend?

[all laughing]

Raleigh: That's not what I meant! You know that's not what I meant!

Sydnee: I know!

Taylor: Have a piece of pizza in one hand, and a pigeon in the other! Just New York stuff, you know. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Wearing a bagel as a bracelet.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Standing in front of the Empire State Building!

Taylor: It's just what you do.

Sydnee: [New York Accent] "Hey!" [laughs]

Taylor: [also in New York Accent] "I'm walkin here, I'm walkin here!"

Raleigh: "I'm walkin—" [laughs]

[all laughing]

Taylor: New York stuff.

Sydnee: Is that-Wait, Raleigh? [laughing]

Raleigh: I'm going to New York in a few days, and I thought that's what they all did. I was trying to prepare.

Taylor: That's... That's what we'll do!

Sydnee: Uh, no. You'll just drink coffee.

Raleigh: That's all they do. Which honestly, like I'd be fine—

Sydnee: With the same five other white people every day!

Taylor: Yeah, and—

Raleigh: Yeah, which I'd be fine with but also when do they all work? They're always there.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: I don't know, I mean we get to see like—Remember for a while Monica worked at that roller skating restaurant where she had to have fake breasts.

Raleigh: [sighs] Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Ah, I forgot about that storyline.

Raleigh: Yeah. But then she works at the fancy restaurant.

Sydnee: She's the chef, yeah.

Raleigh: And she's the chef. Yeah. Um... Which I feel like we don't talk enough about Monica's job and how impressive and cool that was.

Taylor: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Raleigh: But they barely ever... That's like a non-thing.

Sydnee: Well, it—And you could—We've leveled a lot of like... Complaints against *Friends* for their insensitivity to like, everybody who isn't... You know straight white—

Raleigh: White, cis—

Sydnee: White, straight, cis—Yeah, exactly. Affluent to a certain extent.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know? Um... But then you could also talk about like... It is very restrictive as to like what kind of archetypes exist.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, and especially as like a woman watching like well I'm not like Rachel because I'm not like, I don't have that arc of like, I was pretty but also supposed to be kind of ditzy, I think—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: To like... Business woman, capable.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Sydnee: You know, takes care of herself. Like, successful, and all that kind of stuff. Um, I'm definitely not like Phoebe. I'm not like... Mom.

Raleigh: Mom. Yeah.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughing] I'm definitely not like mom. You know? Earthy, spiritual, like hippy kinda like... That's not me.

Raleigh: Writing guitar songs for fun.

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Exactly, and never taken seriously.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Sydnee: Like Phoebe is never taken seriously, essentially. Um, and I'm... I guess I'm most like Monica because I'm kind of awkward, and I sometimes rub people the wrong way, and I can be shrill and kind of irritating sometimes, I guess. So, yeah. The one that is the—

Raleigh: Who you like to... Clean?

Sydnee: What?

Raleigh: Is that what her thing is? [laughs]

Sydnee: I like to eat. [laughs] Um, and uh... I don't know. So I guess that's... Me? Like but that's—I mean, that's hard. Like which one do I identify with? At least three—

Raleigh: It's very diminutive of the wide range of all the things that.. Women specifically, can be. It's like that book that we read a while ago that you found that was like the guide to being a girl?

Taylor: Oh yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: And it was like "What kind of woman are you?"

Sydnee: "Which type are you?"

Raleigh: "Which type are you?" Like the whole idea of like "Well are you a Rachel, a Monica, or a Phoebe?"

Sydnee: Well—

Raleigh: Like that's like a thing. And with Friends being popular, and it's like that's not all that women can be.

Sydnee: No, and I would say that even though it... I don't think that um, men necessarily feel the need to fit into like media stereotypes as often—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Cause they have a lot wider range of things to choose from?

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: So I don't think it's as problematic. But like, the men—The male characters are definitely... Pigeon-holed too.

Raleigh: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: I mean like—

Raleigh: Joey's just like... He eats, and he acts, and he's not the smartest.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Raleigh: Chandler's like sarcastic funny guy, and Ross is just kind of like an annoying whiny smart guy.

Taylor: [laughing]

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Right? Is that—[laughs]

Sydnee: And none of them are people—I mean, I will say this too: It's interesting, as I think back like "Who was I attracted to on the show? Or "Who would I have wanted to date?"... None of them?

Raleigh: Yeah. Somehow, none of them.

Sydnee: I—I mean like, I don't think—I mean, not like I was repulsed by all of them, but I don't think like... I wouldn't particularly want to be in a relationship with any of them.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah, I don't think I'd want to hang out with... I think I could like hang out with Joey, and be like "Aw, you're sweet and funny, but you gotta chill it with the objectification of women." And Phoebe, I'd be like "Yeah,

okay.” That’s... Phoebe’s cool, but everybody else just kind of sucks? Is that okay? Sorry. [laughs] I don’t know.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I—Yeah. I mean... I think when Phoebe starts dating Paul Rudd’s character—

Raleigh: Oh!

Taylor: [laughing] Is that...

Sydnee: Like he’s nice guy—Mike?

Raleigh: What a—Mike. What a perfect person for Phoebe to marry.

Sydnee: Right?

Raleigh: Paul Rudd.

Sydnee: I could hang out with Mike.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That’s who—There—You would hang out with Paul Rudd, is what it is. [laughing]

Sydnee: [laughing]

Raleigh: One of the—One of the non-friends.

Sydnee: Friends-adjacent.

Taylor: Yeah, I don’t mind some of the friends-adjacent people. [laughs]

Raleigh: A friend of the friends.

Sydnee: I feel bad for Emily. I feel like she got a raw deal.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Raleigh: But she also was kind of mean.

Sydnee: Well, “I think you’re still in love with your ex-girlfriend because you said her name at the altar, so I’d rather you not hang out with her—”

Raleigh: Well—

Sydnee: Is not a wild request.

Raleigh: I don't just mean about that. I mean like... I feel like, again, that was another like... Just generalization of women as like "Oh she's kind of like the "B". He's the mean one."

Sydnee: Well, they needed—And this is classic, like, especially that era of television, we have to make her unlikable now.

Taylor: Right.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Because we want you to not like her, so that then we can all agree it's best when Ross eventually divorces her. We all have to be on the same page, so we will make her unlikable.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: As opposed to just like "Well, you know, sometimes in human relationships, things don't work out and it's nobody's fault and nobody's—" It's not that like anybody is like inherently bad or unlikable, it just... Didn't work out.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And also he said Rachel's name at the altar! [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's a huge deal!

Taylor: Yeah!

Raleigh: Wow. That was a huge deal. Man... Does everyone have a favorite episode? I do.

Sydnee: You do?

Raleigh: Yeah. It's uh... "Chandler in a Box".

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: The one that, where he—They're at Thanksgiving, and Joey punishes Chandler by putting him in the box.

Sydnee: Uh-huh?

Raleigh: Because Chandler tried to date Joey's ex-girlfriend?

Sydnee: Oh yeah!

Raleigh: So he spends the whole Thanksgiving in this big wooden box... In—
During Thanksgiving. It's very... It's very funny.

Taylor: [still laughing]

Sydnee: Uh... What about you, Taylor? Do you have a favorite episode of *Friends*?

Taylor: I don't—

Raleigh: [laughing]

Taylor: I don't think I have one! I don't know! Uh... Like... Yeah, I can't
like—I don't think I have a favorite episode of *Friends*!

Sydnee: I really liked when um... Monica and Chandler proposed to each
other.

Taylor: Okay, yeah.

Raleigh: That was good.

Sydnee: I would say Chandler proposes to Monica, but it's kind of a...

Raleigh: It's both.

Sydnee: Yeah. I thought—That one actually caught me by surprise, cause I
was really nervous as to where it was going, there.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Cause they hint that she might, like, get back together with
Richard.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And then she doesn't. And—Like I said, I was always way more
invested in them as a couple.

Raleigh: I feel like you probably identify you and Justin more so as a Monica and Chandler! [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Yes. I do, I do. I think, yes.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Not prone to the like broad, dramatic strokes of a Ross and a Rachel.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: No—No giant, like... Torturous love affair, like “Will they-Won’t they”, spans the ages—

Raleigh: If mom is Phoebe, does that make dad Paul Rudd?

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: [laughs] Cause I feel like honestly, that’s like—

Taylor: I think that’s a—

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: That—yeah.

Raleigh: That’s fair.

Taylor: That’s a comfortable assertion.[laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. I-

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: I guess. I guess that’s about right... I guess. [laughs]

Raleigh: Um... How does everyone feel about the reboot? The reunion?

Sydnee: Are they doing a reboot?

Raleigh: Yup.

Sydnee: Oh! Oh, I heard they were doing a reunion, yeah.

Raleigh: Well it's like a—It's like a, um... I don't know if it's like a long feature, like one episode, or if it's like a limited series?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm?

Raleigh: But... They're all getting—The friends are back together.

Sydnee: Interesting.

Taylor: Oh, so it's going to be like however many years later, we're gonna check in on them?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Taylor: Oh, interesting.

Raleigh: They uh—It's an HBO exclusive, cause I guess they're the ones who have the streaming rights to it now—

Sydnee: Wow...

Raleigh: So sometime in May, whenever they're uploading all the episodes, they're also going to be uploading this new... Reunion series.

Sydnee: That's really... I wonder, um... I wonder how they'll do that, one: It must have been expensive.

Raleigh: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: That was a big thing too, with *Friends* towards the end. There were a lot of stories, back when it was on the air—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: About like—They started negotiating together... For their salaries—

Raleigh: Yeah. Well it was a record, what they were making—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: For anyone who'd been on a sitcom before.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. [agreement] I'm sure it's probably been broken by now, but...

Raleigh: Yeah. Um... But uh, One: It would be expensive, and Two: I wonder how they'll address like... I feel like if you have a show like that—And I don't know, I didn't watch... I wonder if they do this on *Will and Grace*, cause I didn't watch the *Will and Grace* reboot... And I watched Will and Grace a little bit, back in the day—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: I didn't watch it all the time, though. But I wonder how you address like, if you have a show like *Friends*, set in New York City, and it is so clearly not representative—

Raleigh: Yeah. Problematic.

Sydnee: Of New York City, from like a diversity standpoint, in every way, shape, and form. Every... Type of diversity you could talk about, it is not representative. So if you're gonna reboot it or you're gonna reunion it or whatever, now in 2020... Do you try to fix that? Do you try to address it?

Taylor: Well—[sighs]

Raleigh: Man...

Taylor: Well it's funny, cause I know—I think, um... Not necessarily referencing the HBO one, which still has the same characters, but I know that like—[laughs] David Schwimmer got some heat because he tweeted about how he thought it'd be cool to re-do *Friends* now, with a completely different cast and make it a diverse cast, and a lot of people were quick to point out that that already happened, and that was *Living Single*—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And that was the show that came before *Friends*, that was set in a Brooklyn brownstone, and it was, you know, all people of color.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And... *Friends* got way over advertised, and like they aired opposite timeslots, so you know, kind of like, it... It kind of didn't have the success it should've had, because of *Friends*, so—[laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like—

Sydnee: Yeah. Friends was the white “Living Single”.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like “We did that.” [laughs]

Raleigh: I feel like with—[sighs]

Sydnee: Yeah?

Raleigh: With a show like Friends, you could either—You could either... Go one of two ways, and you can make lots of very bold and obvious statements, that are very like, “breaking the fourth wall”... About the problems of the show.

Sydnee: Right.

Raleigh: And trying to fix them. Or... You just don’t, and you just try to make it about these characters, and try to avoid any sort of like... Other social issues with the show, and just try to make it about like “Oh look, we’re gonna spend an hour looking at like, What are they up to now? What are those kids doing?” So—I don’t know.

Sydnee: I don’t know. I just—

Raleigh: I feel like... It would depend on...

Sydnee: What you’re gonna do with it?

Raleigh: What you’re gonna do with it.

Sydnee: I just feel like if you’re gonna do it in 2020, you have to address it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like you have to address that that was one of the biggest problems with *Friends*.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it really, like... It's weird to think about how what a big part of culture—Like I remember—I know this would seem strange, Raleigh, but like when I was in college was when the... *Friends* finale aired—

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Sydnee: And all of us got together at one of my friend's apartments. And we had a big "Farewell to *Friends*" party—

Raleigh: Aw.

Sydnee: So that we could all watch it at the same time. Cause you know, nothing was streaming—

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: It was just like "on".

Raleigh: You'd have to, yeah.

Sydnee: It's just like on T.V.—Like there with commercials, and everything, and we just—[laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Wow, commercials. [laughs] What are those?

Sydnee: Yeah. I remember though, cause Justin—I was dating Justin by then, and he was there, and he did not watch *Friends* much and so he was totally like "I don't... Know what... This is fine. Whatever."

Raleigh: Aw, but he came with you!

Sydnee: He did. He suffered through the *Friends* finale.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Despite all that. Um, it was a huge deal—They parodied it on SNL that night. Or the next night. Whatever. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh—

Raleigh: I mean, it was like *the* show.

Sydnee: It was.

Raleigh: Was the show.

Sydnee: It was the show.

Raleigh: Of that time period.

Sydnee: So it'll be interesting to see what they do to like... Make—Cause it's got a—I mean, things have to be relevant and speak to where they are, and what, like... Where they are in time and place, in society. And *Friends* did not speak to where it was, in that time and place, and—

Raleigh: It certainly doesn't, now.

Sydnee: No, it doesn't at all.

Raleigh: Yeah, thirty years later or whatever.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Twenty-five years later.

Sydnee: And that's what it's a—You know, that's... That's the key to this, to making something feel like relevant and important and like something you want to be into, is like... All of these people who didn't look or talk or think like the friends, already existed; they just weren't on television. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Cause none of them were being allowed to make the television.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So...

Taylor: We'll see.

Sydnee: Let's—I don't know.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: We'll see. I'm sure that'll be something we'll talk about, in the next few months.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah, we'll see.

Raleigh: When it comes out.

Sydnee: I never got a Rachel haircut.

Raleigh: Hmm.

Sydnee: I always wanted one.

Raleigh: That was always a go-to, “the Rachel”.

Sydnee: It was called “the Rachel”.

Raleigh: Yeah, mm-hmm.

Taylor: There was actually a, like an exhibit on *Friends* not too long ago in New York. I think it was just this past year. Uh, one of my buddies who does wigs, like styles wigs professionally, and she got to make all of Rachel’s hair. [laughs] Through the seasons.

Sydnee: [Gasps] Oh!

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: Yeah, uh...

Raleigh: That’s cool.

Taylor: Yeah, definitely having like a weird moment, like culturally of like people curious about it—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: So... It’s a good time to do something like this, I guess.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, that... Before we end, you were talking about hairstyles. I will say, one of the funniest—And I saw this um, on a rerun that was on not too long ago, was when Phoebe was doing Monica’s hair, and she says she wants her to cut it short, like Demi Moore?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: And—Cause Demi Moore at the—I don’t know what her hair looks like now, but at the time, had the—

Raleigh: Like that bob kind of...?

Sydnee: Well, not even bob. Like really short-cut, and it was—It looked... It—From *Ghost*?

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. And it was a very popular look. Um, but Phoebe thinks she means Dudley Moore?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It's a pretty funny bit.

Raleigh: It's a very good one.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's pretty funny.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [still laughing]

Sydnee: Pretty funny bit. [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] Let's get Dudley "Moore" Jokes!

[all laugh]

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: For all you Dudley Moore fans out there.

Raleigh: We know you're out there.

Sydnee: That's from me to you.

Taylor: And you make fun of me for liking Jim Carrey!

Sydnee: Alright! [laughs] What are we talking about next week?

Taylor: Uh, alright! So, I haven't talked about any music that uh, influenced me... Yet. So I wanted to bring up one of my favorite bands, growing up "Veruca Salt". Um... And I, like—

Sydnee: All right! Okay.

Taylor: You know, I mean, they've got a lot of hits. Uh, so I guess album-wise, "Eight Arms to Hold You" is probably the one that has the songs that I most want to talk about? But there's also some good ones on "American Thighs"? I don't know. I think the whole story of the band is cool, which I'll obviously get more into next week. But... Yeah.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, we will listen to some "Veruca Salt"—

Raleigh: We'll do that.

Sydnee: Between now and then.

Taylor: Awesome.

Sydnee: I will listen to it again.

Taylor: Hey you—You listened to it a lot—

Raleigh: I listened to it for the first time.

Sydnee: Alright, alright.

Taylor: Alright. Yeah.

Sydnee: I still have the CDs, if you need to borrow them.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I mean, thanks I guess, but I don't know what to do with them.
[laughs]

Taylor: You want me to burn you a copy? [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughing]

Taylor: I'll send them to you in the mail? [laughs]

Raleigh: I don't know why you'd—I don't know why you'd do that to a CD, that seems very... Counterproductive, on the other hand, but...

Sydnee: Oh. I'll make you a really great "Veruca Salt" mix, of just the—

Raleigh: The hits?

Sydnee: Yeah, just the hits.

Taylor: Great, yeah.

Raleigh: Hits only.

Taylor: There you go.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Alright.

Raleigh: Alright. Well—

Sydnee: Alright, well thank you. Thank you both for indulging me and talking about *Friends*. I still don't understand why it's so popular among youth.

Raleigh: I honestly don't either.

Sydnee: I don't think I ever will, but um... But there we go. I don't intend on rewatching it, I don't think. [laughs] I think I'm good.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, thank you listeners, uh... If you want to e-mail us, you can. It's stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. You should check out maximumfun.org for a lot of wonderful podcasts you would enjoy. You can tweet at us @stillbuff, 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 am Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

[Both Taylor and Sydnee]

And I... Am... Too...

[theme music plays]

[radio buzzes with a transmission]

Speaker 1: Mission control, this is rocket ship one. Come in, mission control.

Speaker 2: This is mission control, go ahead.

Speaker 1: We have incoming, and it looks big.

Speaker 2: Can you identify?

Speaker 1: It looks like...

[beeping noise of a radar plays]

Some sort of... Pledge drive. Affirmative. It's MaxFun Drive.

Speaker 2: That's a verified MaxFun Drive. Countdown to MaxFun Drive is initiated. Can you project a time to intercept?

Speaker 1: Based on the current trajectory, MaxFun Drive will be here from March 16th to March 27th.

Speaker 2: March 16 to March 27, roger. Rocket ship one, can you confirm a visual on common MaxFun Drive phenomena, such as the best episodes of the year, bonus content, and special gifts for new and upgrading monthly members?

Speaker 1: We have a visual. Great episodes, bonus content, premium gifts confirmed. And more. Sure sounds quiet, down there. Mission control, what's your status?

Speaker 2: All systems go, rocket ship one, just catching up on our favorite MaxFun shows, so we can tune in to MaxFun Drive episodes between March 16 to March 27. Over and out.

[radio transmission fuzzes out]

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