

Still Buffering 204: Veruca Salt "Eight Arms to Hold You" (1997)

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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: Well, how are you all doin'?

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's the answer.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughter becomes more strained]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I'm...

Taylor: [weird laughter?]

Rileigh: ... dissociating into Animal Crossing.

Sydnee: Everybody doin' okay?

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I mean, I had a pretty good day so far. I said hello to one cat, and then I looked at the other cat and said hello to that cat, and then I went back to the other cat and said hello to that cat. Uh, and I drank some coffee? [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: At the—whenever the cats start saying hello back, please let—please notify me immediately.

Taylor: It's—right? Oh, we'll get there. We'll get there. We might already be there.

Sydnee: Let's just—before we go any further, can—let's just—you—you two, and everyone at home and—let's all just take a deep breath. [snorts]

All: [inhale and exhale deeply]

Raleigh: [inhales and whines on the exhale]

Sydnee: It's gonna be okay.

Raleigh: Let out all my existential secrets.

Sydnee: Gonna be okay. [singing] Take a deep breath and count to four. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [through laughter] Right, *Daniel Tiger*.

Taylor: Oh, is that what that is? [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes, that's from *Daniel Tiger*. It's gonna—it's gonna be okay. We're gonna get through this all together. Uh, I—I hope everyone is listening from the safety of their homes.

Taylor: Yeah, not having that wild *Still Buffering* listening party [laughs] that I'm sure you all have!

Raleigh: I know you all have it every week.

Taylor: Just a hundred people crammed into a room.

Sydnee: You can all just listen to it at the same time remotely and Skype about it. Uh, please do not gather together, or whatever you kids do.

Rileigh: Yep. That's what we kids do. We Skype about it.

Sydnee: [laughs] Please do not gather together in our name. [pauses] For now.

Rileigh: That sounds... Ritualistic?

Sydnee: Or in anyone else's name.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Just stay apart.

Taylor: Yeah, in general.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Just stay apart. It'll be okay. This is the time for you to, um, catch up on all the Netflix... That exists.

Rileigh: I've watched so much Netflix. I started embroidering. I've crocheted a blanket. Now I've played, like, 48 straight hours of Animal Crossing.

Sydnee: Uh, do you know—by the way, I ordered some, um, Crayola washable paints for the girls because we didn't have very many, and they wanted to paint. And I was like, "Well, we're gonna be inside a lot," so I got 'em some new paints. And instead of—it arrived, and the box that was supposed to be full of paints instead [laughs quietly] had a DVD player in it.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: What?!

Sydnee: [through laughter] I got—I have a DVD player now. I don't know! It was supposed to be full of a bunch of different colors, like 24 different colors of Crayola washable paints! I was very excited 'cause it had pink and Charlie was like, "I want pink, and none of 'em ever have pink!" And I found pink. I mean, you can make pink, but... It was a DVD player.

Taylor: I'm not under—I'm not—oh, so wait. This was something you ordered or something you found?

Sydnee: I ordered it from Amazon. I ordered from them Crayola washable paints!

Taylor: Okay—

Sydnee: And instead of paints, I received a box [through laughter] that was a DVD player!

Taylor: And your—your response to that was "Oh well, we got a DVD player now." And you did not—[laughs] you did not pursue that further?!

Sydnee: Nah. I—I—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Nope, she didn't!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I actually did—[laughs] I actually have not reordered the paints.

Raleigh: [through laughter] Okay.

Sydnee: Charlie asked me that today. She said "Mommy, I know we got that DVD player, but are we ever gonna order the paints?" [laughs]

Taylor: You just—

Raleigh: "No, honey."

Taylor: —you—you know that Amazon isn't just some lottery where you—maybe they'll send you want! Maybe not!

Raleigh: Also, is that—[laughs] is that how much the value of a DVD player has decreased that it costs the same as a pack of Crayola washable paints?

Taylor: Hey, well, I mean, I need to—this table's a little uneven. I need something to prop it up with. It's fine, we'll keep it.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] No, I didn't—[laughs] I—I don't—sometimes, you know, you just—the universe sends you what you need. Um... No, I'm gonna—I am gonna reorder the paints, and I am gonna—I thought about trying to send back the DVD player but I thought, you know, we have, um... Harmony House, where I volunteer and do medical stuff.

They have a rapid rehousing program for people facing homelessness, and they often need furniture, appliances, electronics, anything extra you have, I thought maybe somebody wants a DVD player, so. The universe sent me a DVD player. I will donate my DVD player and buy more paints.

Raleigh: The first time they go to put a DVD in they're like, "Why won't it—it's—there's something in it. Why won't it go in?"

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: And it pops open and it's full of Crayola paints. [laughs]

Sydnee: And it's full of paints. [through laughter] Just—

Taylor: Just a unique packaging design.

Sydnee: [through laughter] I thought Amazon was out of boxes! I was like—

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: —well, that's a weird box!

Taylor: Stuff is bad there. Well, to be fair, they're probably under a lot of stress right now and they saw your order come in and they were like, "Are you serious?"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: "Are you freaking serious? [mockingly] Oh, you wanna paint right now? [angrily] You take what you get! DVD player! Boom. Who cares?"

Sydnee: [laughs] I just—I just was—I—I'm trying to... I—again, it's been said in every meme on Earth, but props to all you teachers out there, because I am trying really hard to maintain some sort of, like, structure in Charlie's life. I mean, Cooper's two. She wasn't in school already.

But, uh, I try to do all the different activities. Like, I try to do some reading, some math, I do some art or something creative. We do art, we do music, we do dance, we do theater. Try to do all the different—hit the big things. And science, of course. That's the easy one. I do lots of science. But, like, there's other things I know. I was trying to do art, and Cooper loves to paint. Anyway.

Raleigh: That's [crosstalk]—

Taylor: [simultaneously] Well, no, no, that—go ahead.

Raleigh: Yeah. That's the weird thing to think about is that Cooper's life has not changed at all.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Babies and toddlers are just like, "I don't know what you all are freaking out about. I stay inside all the time."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: She's thrilled 'cause Charlie's home now.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah! That—that is good, though. Like, I do think establishing some sort of routine or normalcy on a daily basis. I've had to, like—I work at a, like— [stammering] you know, my normal job is I work at a bar, but then I'm always doing, like, freelance stuff, and I think anyone that is, like—has done freelance has kind of had some prep going into this as to, like—you have three days off.

You have to, like, have a routine to be a—a human. Like, you have to build one into it. It's—it is really good advice. Like, you know, to somehow have a thing you do every day. And—and make sure you put on clothes every day. [laughs]

Sydnee: No, that's true. We've been working really hard to make sure we keep—like, bedtimes are the same. Bath time routines are the same. We get up at the same—I mean for our kids. Like—[laughs] Justin and I have bath time routines.

Rileigh: [crosstalk]

Taylor: [crosstalk]

Sydnee: But we get—we get up, we get dressed, we have outside playtime if it's warm enough. Like, we try to do all the things. Uh, Mo Willems who writes those Pigeon books and Elephant and Piggie books does this great doodle time. Um, it's at lunchtime every day. And, uh, like, it's the Kennedy Center website, I believe. And you can check that out.

That's been great for the kids to, like, doodle. And he talks about, like, his feelings, and shows old art from the original, like, drafts of his books. It's really cool. Uh, Josh Gad reads a story, like a children's book, every evening on Twitter.

Rileigh: That's cool.

Sydnee: Yeah. So that's—there have been all kinds of fun things that people are doing to, like, help out with that.

Rileigh: I—I have organized my clothes into actual sleep pajamas and daytime pajamas.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Well...

Rileigh: And then I change out of my pajamas I sleep in [through laughter] and put on my daytime pajamas.

Taylor: I mean, that's—that's good.

Rileigh: I have nothing to do. I don't even have homework. Like, all my classes are just canceled for another week, and we don't even start online classes for another week so I'm just like, I—

Sydnee: Come watch my kids! [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Now, see...

Taylor: Yeah, there you go.

Sydnee: I have these kids! Do you want to watch them? Hey, what do you want to teach them? What's baby sis school gonna be about?

Raleigh: I don't know. What do I te—Animal Crossing? Can I teach 'em how to play Animal Crossing?

Sydnee: [quietly] Okay, alright. [laughs] [normal volume] Alright, alright. Uh, what's your quarantine name?

Raleigh: What—what?

Sydnee: Your quarantine name.

Raleigh: How do you find your quarantine name?

Sydnee: It is how you're feeling right now plus the last thing you ate out of your pantry.

[pauses]

Raleigh: I am Anxious KC Masterpiece Barbecue Chips.

Sydnee: [laughs] Alright Alright. I—I love that, because we used to call Raleigh KC, uh—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —because of a night—we were actually on a trip. Tey, do you remember this? We were at Disney World.

Taylor: Oh yeahhh.

Raleigh: I was in bed with Taylor.

Sydnee: You were in bed with Teylor.

Teylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: And Sydnee and Justin were in bed next to us.

Sydnee: We were all much younger.

Rileigh: I was, like, what? Six, maybe?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: So like Charlie's age.

Sydnee: And we were laying there and we had had a big day at Disney, and then it's—we're going to bed in our hotel. It's—we turn off the lights, and as we're all trying to drift off we hear "crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch."

Teylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I say, "Rileigh?"

"Yes?"

"What are you doing?"

"Eating KC Masterpiece chips."

Rileigh: [laughs]

Teylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: In the—just layin' there in the dark in bed.

Teylor: [through laughter] Just in the dark!

Rileigh: Next to Teylor.

Sydnee: [laughs] Eating KC Masterpiece chips.

Taylor: And the thing is, like, I wasn't even bothered by it. I was like, "Oh, yeah." So, you know.

Sydnee: Alright.

Raleigh: [through laughter] Having a bedtime snack.

Taylor: Eatin' chips in the dark. Been there. Done that. [laughs]

Raleigh: I have made—I have full circled.

Taylor: There you go.

Sydnee: You're back to KC. Taylor, what's your—what's your name?

Taylor: Oh, gosh. I—I think, uh, I'm—I'm Worrisome Veggie Dog.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I wanna read that comic book.

Sydnee: Hey!

Taylor: "Oh, I'm just a Worrisome Veggie Dog." [laughs]

Sydnee: Please—please create Worrisome Veggie Dog the comic strip.

Taylor: So that's—that's me personified. Syd, where are—where are you at?

Sydnee: When I—When I first read this, uh, I realized at that moment that I was, um, Scared Atkins Bar. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Which seems appropriate. If Atkins Bar had an emotion, it would probably be scared, I think.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Like, "What am I?!" [laughs] "Am I food? You don't know!"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: "Probably not. Is this good for you? I don't know!"

Rileigh: "Who am I?!"

Sydnee: "[through laughter] No—no one knows really. [shakily] Eat it? Maybe?"

Taylor: "I don't know!"

Sydnee: Uh, but I've given up, clearly, 'cause today I'm Exhausted Pad Thai.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Which says a lot about the progression [laughs] of me through this week.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs] I just—I just don't wanna—I'm trying to stave off, like, Emptiness Whiskey, [through laughter] so we're gonna do our best.

Sydnee: There we go. [laughs]

Rileigh: When I get home, I'm still gonna be anxious, but I'll be an Anxious Calzone.

Taylor: Oh, alright.

Sydnee: Alright. Uh, we're not—we're not gonna spend this whole episode talking about our—our quarantining and self distancing.

Raleigh: I cannot. I could not.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: I hope you all are, though. That's the last I'll say about it. I feel like it's—it's our duty... [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: And also I would like to speak for all Gen Z'ers and say we're not like that stupid boy they keep showing on the news that's like, "I don't care if I get corona. Nothin's gonna stop me from partying." Because they're on Spring Break.

Sydnee: Yeah...

Taylor: Yeah...

Raleigh: Like, that's not—everyone keeps Facebooking that, all the boomers, and are like, "This is the selfish generation that's gonna get us all killed!"

Sydnee: To be fair, they keep blaming the millennials, and it's not even the millennials.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That's the thing that makes—that's the thing that up—upsets me is they keep saying "Oh, look at these millennial partiers!" I'm like, "Hello. I have not been a young 20-something for over 10 years! Like, leave me out of this!" [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. It's not even millennials. They got the wrong generation. [laughs]

Sydnee: I know.

Taylor: They don't even—[laughs]

Sydnee: It's not the millennials. The mi—the millennials. are all out of jobs. The millennials. are trying to figure out what the heck they're gonna do. They're not partying at the beach.

Raleigh: Most of the Gen Z'ers—

Taylor: Making avocado toast over a fire in a garbage can. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Most of the Gen Z'ers have been kicked out of school, where they would rather be, and are just scrolling through TikTok depressed in their parents' house.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's—well, that's what the Gen X'ers are doing. That's—I consider myself a lot closer to Gen X and it's like, we're just all at home going, "We always knew this was coming back in the 90's. [through laughter] We had lots of sad music about it. We were very angsty for this exact moment!"

Taylor: You practiced.

Sydnee: We practiced this for a long time! The ennui is real. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And then you got—

Taylor: Dusting off your nihilism and your flannel.

Sydnee: And let's be honest. You've got the Gen Z'ers partying at Spring Break, but you've got the boomers goin' to the mall! [laughs]

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. Goin' to Walmart. Stealin' all the toilet paper.

Sydnee: Defiantly going to Walmart! [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] [sighs]

Sydnee: No, I'm kidding. Hopefully all generations are staying home. Stay home! Stay home. And listen to great music. Like, what do you have this week to bring us, Tey?

Taylor: Hey, yeah. Well, speaking of—speaking of our—our old, uh, 90's grungy past, uh, I'm gonna talk about Veruca Salt! Which wasn't exactly grunge but, uh, it was one of my favorite bands. Probably my favorite band of my teenage years. Um, and means—means a lot to me. Uh—

Sydnee: It was—I loved listening to Veru—I—I haven't in a long time, and because we were doing this I relistened to Veruca Salt, and man it was good. I don't know why I stopped.

Taylor: It was good. Uh, and it was a—I mean—so, okay. So for those of you that don't know or aren't familiar with all of the backstory, Veruca Salt was a—it was a band that formed in Chicago in 1992. Basically, uh, the two frontwomen, Nina Gordon and Louise Post, they were introduced by actually Lili Taylor, who's, like, an actress, pretty well known.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: So she was friends with both of them and was like, "You two should meet." And they met up and started kind of making some music together. Uh, it was a little bit more singer-songwriter, and then Nina Gordon brought her, uh—her brother in, Jim Shapiro, who was kind of like one of those people that could play *all* the instruments, but he'd never played drums, and they're like, "How 'bout you play drums?"

Raleigh: [short laugh]

Taylor: So he started playing drums, like, in this band for the first time. Uh, and then they added Steve Lack as a bassist. Um, and just kind of, you know, started, like... writing songs, making music, playing shows. Uh, in the original format, like—I thought it was cool when I was reading about it.

Like, Louise and Nina would—they didn't actually collaborate on songs. Like, they would each bring songs to the table and, like, Louise sang the songs that Louise

wrote and Nina sang the songs that Nina wrote. And that's why you have, like, a back and forth of lead vocals on all of their albums is because they both—

Sydnee: Huh.

Raleigh: Ohh.

Taylor: —kind of just passed off the frontwoman job.

Raleigh: I like that.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. What do you—what were your first—before we kind of get into more of the music, and Tey I want you to be able to share, like, why it meant so much to you, what were your impressions of it, Raleigh? 'Cause you never—you'd never listened to this band before, right?

Raleigh: Yeah. I had never listened to them before.

Sydnee: Did you recognize any of it?

Raleigh: I mean... [sighs] this isn't, like, a dig. This is just genuinely my first thought—'cause I did enjoy it, and I listened to the whole album multiple times, 'cause we decided on this a few weeks ago.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: And I have listened throughout these few weeks a few times. Um, it sounded very, like, just 90's movie soundtrack reminiscent—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Raleigh: —like that kind of, like—

Taylor: Well, that's valid.

Raleigh: —like, not entirely, like, punk, but not pop. Like, that pop punk mix.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: That you would hear, like, in, like, the montage where the girl's about to be like, "Oh, she's beautiful now." And, like, they get a—she gets the guy at the end. Like *Clueless*, like that kind of...

Sydnee: Sure.

Rileigh: I—I enjoyed it a lot, but that was just—that was what it reminded me of. Um...

Sydnee: It—I think that's tough, when you have something that, like, is genre-defining—or at least early genre, you know. I mean, like, I—I—I don't know if Veruca Salt would be genre-defining, but it definitely is—is an early example of a style of music that permeated a time period... the 90's. Uh, I—it's hard, because when you hear it for the first time many years later, it will sound derivative to you. It will sound cliched and like a million other things you've heard, but that's because—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] But it was the—yeah.

Sydnee: —so many things have been patterned after it.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: It's—it's hard to put yourself in a mindset where, like, all of music did not already sound that way, you know?

Rileigh: Right. It was, uh—I really enjoyed it, mostly because it's the kind of music that I'd normally turn on to, like, write to, or to, like, crotchet or whatever, because it—not that it—

Sydnee: [laughs] That would be hardcore crocheting!

Taylor: [through laughter] Yeah!

Rileigh: —you know what I mean? Like—like, it's that—

Taylor: I think you could crochet to Veruca Salt. I think so.

Raleigh: Yeah! It's that nice blend, and—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: —and it all kind of—all the songs, like, sound alike, and you're just like—you can kind of just, like, lose yourself in all the—in all the songs, and you can listen to it multiple times and, like, hear a lyric you didn't hear the first time or whatever. Like, I—I—I don't know. I enjoyed it.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: —it's the kind of music that I would—I would turn on when I'm gettin' ready to go somewhere and vibe to.

Sydnee: Tey, why—why do you think this band in particular was so important to you?

Taylor: Well, you know, I can remember the exact steps that it took for me to discover Veruca Salt. Um, it was... [laughs quietly] This is so dated it's—it's amazing. So, I was a big fan of Buffy the Vampire Slayer. There was the episode where Bif Naked's "Lucky" played.

Sydnee: Man.

Taylor: Uh, yeah.

Sydnee: Bif Naked!

Taylor: Bif Na—I would love to come back to Bif Naked. It was a—Bif Naked wasn't quite as impactful on me, but I really loved Bif Naked at the same time period, so I was trying to Napster Bif Naked—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —and somehow—

Raleigh: Wait, wait, wait, wait.

Sydnee: [laughter gets louder]

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: That sentence.

Taylor: I know.

Raleigh: That's like—that's like that, uh—that challenge that goes around online that's like "Age yourself without stating what year you were born." [laughs]

Sydnee: "I was trying to Napster Bit Na—Bif Naked."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Well, and through that, um, Volcano Girl somehow got suggested to me. 'Cause I was like this—so, like, Veruca Salt—they formed in '92. Uh, their big—like, their first album came out in '94. Eight Arms To Hold You, which is the album that we're kind of all focused on and, like, that was the one that I was first introduced to came out in I think, uh, '97. Uh, and then they broke up in '98, so by the time I was on to them, they had just broken up.

Raleigh: Ohh.

Taylor: Yeah, so it was kind of after the fact. But it was—Volcano Girls was the song that I first heard [through laughter] through Napstering. And I guess for me, like, at that time I was late middle school, early high school. Like, I was aware of, like, harder music. Like, there was—the riot grrrl movement was a thing that had been a thing since the 90's, but that was still a little intimidating, and there was something about Veruca Salt.

The balance between accessibility but also, like, it wasn't The Spice Girls. They weren't trying to say, like, "Yeah, like, you know, best friends, and we have power!" Like, Veruca Salt had, like, you know, they were—they were angry and they were pissed off and they were sad and they were confused, and they were also—also like "Yeah, we're awesome!" But also, "Oh no, this breakup sucks!"

Like, they were—they had that kind of energy that I was radiating at, and it was an entry point into a lot, like, heavier music for me. But because it had that—

those pop sensibilities, I could get on board. As still, like, you know, like a 13, 14 year old.

Sydnee: Sure. Yeah, no, it—it definitely did, because I was never... I mean, I like... [hesitantly] rock music.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Is that, like, the lamest thing to—[laughs] is that the bad—is that the worst thing to say?

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: "Hello, kids!" [laughs]

Sydnee: "I like rock and roll." No, but, like, I don't mind music that's harder, but I definitely... I do not enjoy quite as hard an edge as I think sometimes you do, Tey, and I always found Veruca Salt to be, like, it get—it went right up to the edge. Like, it was raw enough to go right up to the edge of that, and then it, like, was smoothed off.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] Just—just nicely rounded off that made it way more enjoyable for my tastes, you know?

Taylor: Well, you know, it's funny 'cause—and I know we'll talk about this band at some point, but no one would ever—I don't think people would ever make this comparison, but this is how my brain organizes things. It was a lot like Weezer in that they had this swagger, like, Kiss guitar situation. Like, this... like, rock and roll, like, just shredding at some points, and then could back off and do really catchy, like, refrains, and, like, relatable teenage topics. And that really appealed to me at that time period.

So even though the two bands sounded not really anything alike, they kind of had that same balance to them that I just really dug.

Sydnee: And—and the—and the unique ability for, like, melodic yelling...

Taylor: Hm.

Sydnee: ... is—[laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know? That's—that can never be appreciated enough, I feel like, for my tastes. Like, 'cause I am not usually—I am not a pro-yelling person typically—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —but they—but it—but if it's melodic yelling, that's a whole other thing.

Raleigh: I think that's part of it that—that I enjoyed so much, was because it's—it's not all the way rock screaming. Like, super, like, metal screaming.

Sydnee: Like punk stuff, yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, but it's almost close to, like—not in the subject matter, in most of the songs, like, the—the melody but, like, the mix of voices you get in, like, musical theater?

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Where you have, like, the mix of, like—like, the loud belting, but then you've got, like, the casual, like, catchy stuff. You got the background parts. You got all the layers. Like, it's very much like that where you have all these different layers, and it's not just one note like a lot of pop music is or a lot of, like—all the way on the other end, like, super heavy—heavy metal stuff is.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, and I think that kind of hits on I think the deeper reason that I loved Veruca Salt, and that's that there is this... a lot of—a lot of when you talk about Veruca Salt, you can't not talk about the breakup and you can't not talk about the relationship between Louise Post and Nina Gordon, because it was tumultuous and powerful.

And, like, at the core of it what I think a lot of people loved about their music is that there—there isn't just—they don't have a unified voice in their—in their early

music, you know? There seems to be a conversation happening between these two frontwomen. Like, uh, a lot of their songs—and even, like—like on Eight Arms To Hold You where they're about to break up, a lot of their songs kind of have the sense of the—what's about to happen between them, and it's like—I don't—for me, like, I think—I've never been big on romantic relationships.

My friendships have always been more important to me. And, like, there was something about this to me seeing two... like, just... cool [holding back laughter] talented women, like, performing next to each other, supporting each other, like, singing to each other was, like—there was something bigger there that was—it was more than just like, "I like the music, it's catchy. And oh, they sing about breakups and stuff, and stuff I can relate to."

It's like, no. It's like there's—there's a relationship here that's really beautiful and, like—and powerful, and also that, you know, like, something that's completely, like, a bomb that's about to go off that I don't know. Like, I think that that's—that's kind of where there's, like, those levels of—it's not just one unified voice. It feels more like a point and a counterpoint, because that's exactly what Nina and Louise were to each other.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's—that's interesting. Can you, um—this is not, like—I feel—I realize this sounds like a teachery question, like I'm quizzing.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: You're becoming a teacher.

Sydnee: Could you—[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Teaching [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] Could you elaborate on that? No, but, like, uh—like, through the songs—I don't—I don't know that I... knew them intimately enough, like, as a band and their history and their past to, like, be able to listen to the songs and hear all that through the music. I know that because you've told me that, you know. Um, but I didn't know all those things about them and their relationship and, like, their conflicts and stuff.

Taylor: Well, and they've been—I won't say that haven't been forward about what exactly happened. I mean, they've talked a lot about, like—I read a few interviews leading up to this and, like, Nina saying that basically they just broke each others heart, which is I think a powerful statement.

But, like, that—at the time, they both were supposed to be the frontwomen, and I think also you gotta factor in, like, the music industry's expectation. Like, I think we've always had this problem where when we're dealing with a female artist, there's the diva, you know?

And, I mean, having two women at the front of the band, there was—they were both writing their own songs and singing their own lyrics and kind of—everything was separate. And that's why it had that really great—like, some songs would be light and poppy. Usually that was Nina Gordon. Some songs would be really heavy and, like, metal, and that was usually Louise Post, but they could kind of go back and forth.

Um, and, like, a lot of—like, you know, why—why the band broke up, there were—there were romantic relationships involved. There were a lot of rumors. I don't really want to give them any light, because I think anything the band hasn't confirmed is disrespectful to throw what-ifs out there. But, like, they, you know—they proceeded.

Uh, after they broke up, they each had—I mean, Louise Post kept Veruca Salt, the name Veruca Salt, and continued to produce albums with several—with, like, a rotating group of people behind her. Uh, Nina Gordon had her solo career.

But they kept writing songs about each other, and how much the other one had hurt each other. And, like—like, you could see that it was just—there's this great interview where they're talking about how, uh, they wish that they had just, like—this is—this is a weird thing to say, but, like, had a fistfight and gotten over it, because they proceeded to have a fistfight through music for years after that. For, like, a decade after that. And—

Sydney: Jeez.

Taylor: —and it was—as somebody that, like, followed—'cause I was a big fan of them, and then when they broke up I followed both of their careers. And as a fan it was, like, painful to hear. Like, "Aw, man. Louise just wrote this—" like, Resolver was the first album that came out Eight Arms To Hold You without, uh—

without Nina Gordon. And it's, like—it rips Nina Gordon apart. It doesn't come out and say it, but you know who it's about.

But then Nina Gordon has some—some songs—actually, uh—well, I don't wanna—well, they—they eventually have a re—they did have a reunion very recently, and they rerecorded some songs. They have a new album, and they rerecord one of the songs that Nina Gordon wrote about Louise Post, and it's brutal!

But the fact that they could come to terms with that and rerecord a song that's basically a diss track about one of them is, like—I don't know. There's just so much... there's the band, and that's one thing. But you can see that behind it all there's a friendship that meant a lot to both of them and ripped both of them apart when they fell apart, and then meant so much when they came back together. And I don't know. I mean, experiencing that as just a fan goes so much deeper than just liking their music. It's really seeing something that, you know, you can relate to and feel deeply about.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydney: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: I mean, it's like when, you know—it's exactly like when The Jonas Brothers split up—

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: —and stopped making music, and then came together and wrote a whole bunch of songs.

Taylor: Well... uh, how long—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] It's exactly like that.

Taylor: —how long were they spi—split up?

[pauses]

Raleigh: Ten years?

Taylor: Uh—well, you know what, I'm not gonna—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] Well, not—eight—eight or nine?

Taylor: —I'm not gonna discount. Like, that's—it's about the same—

Sydnee: Okay.

Rileigh: It was—

Taylor: —time period. I'm not—you know.

Rileigh: [through laughter] It was mostly a joke, obviously! [crosstalk]

Taylor: [simultaneously] Well, no. Like, I don't know.

Sydnee: I was gonna say—

Rileigh: It was not to the same level.

Sydnee: Like, they weren't fighting, though.

Rileigh: They were.

Sydnee: I mean, they were still—

Rileigh: Have you watched their—have you watched their documentary?

Sydnee: Of course I haven't!

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: What do you mean?

Rileigh: One day I'll make you all watch their documentary.

Sydnee: No, please, no. Uh, no, but they were, like, still brothers.

Rileigh: Well, yeah.

Sydnee: [Thor impression] Brother!

Rileigh: Are you saying that siblings can't fight, Sydnee?

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [quietly] No, I'm not. Obviously.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: We wouldn't know anything about that.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I'm not—I'm not saying that. I'm just saying, the idea of—of siblings fighting to the point that they would, you know, destroy a—you know, lucrative career—

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] A podcast, per se?

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Seems wild, and I wouldn't recommend it for any other siblings, is all I'm saying!

Taylor: No, no, I agree.

Rileigh: Oh. No, no. But, like, I know what you mean about—in the sense that when you really love this band and then they aren't together anymore—but then when you finally get, like, that reunion where you almost feel like you're a part of it because you were there from the beginning. It's like, "Oh, this is for *me*. This is *mine*. This isn't for people who are just now listening to their music and have only heard them since they've been back together. This is—this is for me, because I was here from the beginning and all through the break and everything."

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Like, that's a—that's definitely a thing I feel like in music, when you're around long enough to experience bands breaking up and getting back together and stuff.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and I—I think it was particularly—I didn't know that they had a reunion. That's really cool to hear, because Tey, I remember you and I having conversations about, like, I listened to both of their music separately, and I never enjoyed it quite as much as I enjoyed their music together. And you feel like—ugh, there's this secret sauce here.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Like, if the two of you can just work through your stuff—which, not to minimize, like, whatever it was. It could've been giant and I'm not saying, like, "Work through it to make music I like!" But, like, you see that there's this spark. There's this magic that two people can create if they work together, and then if they've got differences that can't be resolved it feels very, like, "[sighs] Oh, the world is being deprived of more genius," you know?

Taylor: Right. Well, that—that's totally—'cause, like, I think—I remember, like, the Volcano Girls music video. Like, they're both—Louise and Nina are on, like, bungee cords and just whaling on the guitar. And it's—and it's just a crazy, awesome, exciting music video, and they're singing right into each other's face.

And, like, there's a point where they're both, like, flipping off everybody around them and just singing to each other. And it was just like—when they broke up, I felt like it was—like, their breakup represented, like—what I loved about them was that, like, hey, as women, we don't have to compete. We don't have to be against each other. We can support and embrace and actually find completion within each other, and it doesn't have to even be romantic. Like, it doesn't—you know, as a young person confused about my identity in a lot of ways, I just—it was really nice to see two women being really supportive, and kind of being each other's world. Like, finishing each other.

And I think that that, you know—that was—it was so much more than just, like, "Aw man, I—I liked that. Their music was good." It was like, "Oh no, if they can't work then maybe this thing that I—that they gave me hope for can't work," and that was... deeper.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and that can't be—I mean, we kind of—you kind of joked earlier, like, comparing, like, to The Spice Girls. But to be fair, there is something to be drawn. There have been these, like, groups of female artists who have worked together, whether you're talking about something that's like Veruca Salt, which I would classify as very different music than The Spice Girls and obviously draws very different audiences.

But the idea of, like, girl power or whatever you wanna call it—the idea of women coming together and celebrating their friendship, their power, their ability, is always kind of mocked and belittled, and I think whether you're talking about, like, "Oh, you like The Spice Girls 'cause of girl power," or "Oh, I get it. You're one of those, like, angsty girls who's mad, and so you like Veruca Salt," or whatever it is, you know? It's all, like, demeaned.

But it means a lot when you're younger, and to see—to see any kind of female friendships that aren't, like, combative, that aren't inherently competitive. It really is very powerful when you're younger because that—even as an adult, like, it's just not shown as much. It's just not, you know, modeled to young people as much.

Taylor: And there was—there was real love there. I think that the music wouldn't have been so good if there hadn't have been, and I don't think the breakup would've been so bad if there hadn't have been. Like, there was real love there. I mean, you know, I think that you see that. Like, they both spent the next decade of their careers writing angry songs towards each other.

Like, that's not—that's not just like, "Oh, we were, you know, kind of a thrown together band and it didn't work out." Like, that's that they—there was some part of each other that—that—I mean, and really, like, as far as the reunion goes, I actually, uh—so they released a new album. I think this was... 2013 is when they got back together. The album came, like, a year after that I think, maybe two years.

But I went to the—I went to the reunion show. Uh, they had a—they had a tour. And, like, I—I never in my life thought I would get to see Veruca Salt play. And they got back toge—I will say, they—they got the original lineup back. Like, you know—like I said, Louise cycled through a lot of people, but they personally, like,

went and they got, you know—they got Jim Shapiro, they got Steve Lack. [holding back laughter] It was Jim Shapiro's first time back on drums since, like, he stopped playing with them. And he was like, "Okay! I guess I'll do this!"

Sydnee: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: Well, and actually I should—before I get to that part, I actually should lead up to it with, like, the—the conversation that they had. Like, you know, after many, many years, Louise and Nina started kind of emailing each other. Like, uh—Syd, I think you'll appreciate this. They—they both are mothers now, and that was sort of why they reconnected was, uh, I think Nina had a child first, and then when Louise was pregnant started reaching out to Nina being like, "Uh, this is weird! Tell me things. Like, help me."

And, you know, now they're both, like, mothers with kids and, like, they have families. And so because they both have other lives and they're busy, for this album they weren't writing the way they used to. They weren't "I write my songs and you write your songs."

They'd be like, "Well, I wrote part of this, but I don't know how to finish it. You take it. I got—[laughs] I gotta get the kids to soccer practice!"

Like, they started finally collaborating. Like, finally, like—as they called it, like, co-parenting the band. And that is what the new album came from. And that's, like—that's really, like—I don't know. For, like—you know, I think—I'm a big proponent of, like, yeah romantic relationships are great. Sexual relationships are great. But we really tend to put sexual relationships above all else and, like, diminish all others. And, like, this was clearly an important friendship to them, and seeing them kind of find that resolution where they can co-parent their band and finally write songs together is so much more romantic to me than most [laughs] like, stories that I read or hear?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: No, it really—it really is. It's a beautiful story. And it's one that is not unfamiliar to us. I mean, like, I think John and Paul was a very close analogy to that of The Beatles.

Taylor: You know—

Sydnee: You know? I mean, it's—it's not—and that, I think, is widely accepted as, like, "Oh, what an amazing friendship. It was so—it—it sucks that, like, they had fights and disagreements that obviously led to the band breaking up and everything, and, like, that's so sad 'cause they were so amazing together." And, like, it's a very similar kind of story.

Taylor: And actually the wild part about that is so many of Veruca Salt's references are to The Beatles. Uh, Eight Arms To Hold You was what "Help" was originally gonna be called.

Raleigh: Ohh.

Taylor: Nina—or Louise's first solo album as Veruca Salt is called Resolver, mimicking Revolver.

Sydnee: Revolver, yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. The line in "Seether" about the—or the line in Veruca Salt—like, you know, "I've told you about the seether before." Like, the seether's Louise, as the walrus is Paul. It's like—they have all these references. And that's another thing that I really loved about—

Raleigh: Wow. I had no idea.

Taylor: —yeah. Well, that's a side note. What I loved about Veruca Salt is, like, they have a song about David Bowie. That's why I started listening to David Bowie. Like, it's—

Raleigh: I enjoyed that one.

Taylor: —yeah. They reference The Beatles a lot. That's why I started listening to The Beatles. Like, they had a lot. They weren't afraid of being kind of obscure or making references or kind of leading you down a track to their influences.

You know, that—that I thought was a different layer that they were operating on. But no, I do agree. Like, and I have to say, when they—at the—I went to—it was at the Knitting Factory here in Brooklyn. And when Nina and Louise walked out on stage—and I loved it, 'cause they both, like, you know—you see all, like the—the

past photos of them in, like, their corsets and their leather and they're the rock and roll goddesses, and they walk out and they're in, like, jeans and flannels and they're a couple of moms, and it's great.

And they walk out onstage and everybody started clapping, and just kept—like, we all just kept clapping. It was like a 15 minute round of applause until both Nina and Louise were both crying onstage, 'cause it was just, like—you know, we were all so psyched to see them, and they were all so happy to be there. [laughs] Like—

Sydnee: That makes me wanna cry.

Raleigh: That's awesome, yeah.

Taylor: It was beautiful! And, like—

Raleigh: Sydnee is tearing up across from me. [laughs]

Taylor: Oh! [laughs]

Sydnee: I can't help it. These times make me cry a lot right now.

Taylor: It was really—it was really cool. And, like, hearing how, you know, their voices have changed and, you know, maybe they can't all hit the—well, I mean, I'm not gonna say—they—they hit the notes great. They just had some—some extra grit on there, which only makes it better.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: But, like, just seeing them just, like, still shred onstage and, like, enjoy it so much. Like, hands down, without a doubt, best show I've ever been to in my life.

Sydnee: That's a nice—it's a nice redemption and, like, reuniting story. Reunification? That sounds wrong, but you know what I mean.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Coming back together. It's—it's a—that's a nice story.

Taylor: Well, and off their—'cause their newer album has this one track that I really love. It's called "It's Holy," and, uh—which I think says a lot about how they view their relationship. Is, like, you know, you just—you can't get it. It's us. It's holy. Uh, and it's just—you know, like—they have this, like—like, Ten years gone, they beat us black and blonde, the gloves are coming off and the boots are going back on, with nothing left to prove to all the young dudes, the needle's in the groove."

It's like, ugh! You're back! [laughs]

Sydnee: That's really cool.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh—

Raleigh: Tey, do you have a favorite song, either off this album or in general?

Taylor: Oh...

Sydnee: Yeah, if people wanna, like, get into Veruca Salt?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I mean, if you wanna get into it, like, there are catchy songs that I think you'll—you'll enjoy right off the bat. Uh, that's like "Seether" and, uh—and "Volcano Girls" are, like, their big hits.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Um, I think David Bowie's is poppy and catchy and super fun. I, uh—hmm. I... really—I personally think that—I don't know why my—I mean, my favorite songs are probably—I love "Earth Crosser"? Uh, "Earth Crosser" is the last song on Eight Arms To Hold You, and it's kind of weird.

It starts very slow. It's about them on tour together. And I think it's because there's a part that epitomizes, like, the ambivalence and the kind of, like, "We're figuring stuff out as we go along!" like, thing that appealed to me as a teen. 'Cause there's, like, this beautiful crescen—like, there's—it's quiet and then there's a crescendo, and the lyrics just—it's, uh—what is it? "It's 2 AM and it's

quiet again," and then they just both scream "Where's my lip gloss?" [laughs]
And it's such, like—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —"We don't care if you take us seriously. Yeah, we're girls. Like, what of it? We're still are rockin' on our guitars." So I love "Earth Crosser." Um, and "Shutterbug." "Shutterbug" is great. It builds. It's beautiful. Like, I don't know. I mean, it's—yeah. Those are—those are a couple of my favorites. Uh, yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, cool.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, I think—I think that's lovely, and it's a lovely story to tell right now because I feel like I have gotten a lot of, like, messages and texts from people that I haven't talked to in a while, like, reaching out to be like, "Hey. How you doin'?" [laughs quietly] Thinkin' about you." And, like, I've had that same impulse lately, you know? To, like—not people I've had, like, feuds with. I don't have a lot of feuds, really. [laughs] But, like—

Raleigh: Clear by your use of the word "feuds."

Sydnee: Well—

Raleigh: Which has not been used in—[laughs] centuries.

Sydnee: I don't have a lot of—[laughs] contrary to my Appalachian roots may lead you to believe, I have no feuds. But I—I—just people I haven't talked to in a while who are like, "Hey, how you doin'?" And, like, it's—I don't know. It's a good time to, um, reconnect with, like, old friends and, like, send little messages and things to say "Hey, there's somebody out there thinkin' about you."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: For sure, yeah. If you have a longstanding feud with a former creative partner, you know. [laughs]

Rileigh: There you go. This is the time.

Sydnee: This is the best time.

Rileigh: To write your comeback album.

Taylor: There you go.

Sydnee: Yes. You don't have to be together to do that.

Taylor: No. You have technology. You can Skype it in. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: A lot of wonderful art will come out of this social distancing.

Taylor: You know, we said that about the current administration, and I'm still wait—but maybe this is it. [through laughter] Maybe this is the thing.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You gotta have faith. You gotta hope.

Taylor: Well, I—

Rileigh: Someday.

Taylor: [stammers]

Rileigh: I'll be able to leave my house again.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, you know, I mean—but while we can't, at least we can all making fun content for everybody, try to put some more stuff out there, yeah?

Rileigh: Yeah! Yeah. Um, check in to The McElroy Family YouTube. I streamed—I baked the other night.

Sydnee: We've got some fun ideas. We're not—we're still forming when, but, like, yeah. But keep tuned. We'll probably do everything through The McElroy

Family YouTube channel. Anything video, I should say. Anything audio would just, like, you know—

Raleigh: It's our podcast.

Sydnee: —be here on our podcast feed, the same as everything else, so you'd know about it. But we've got some—we got some ideas cookin'. How to—how to fill these quarantined, social-distanced hours.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, because we're trusting that you're doing the right thing. That you're—

Raleigh: Yeah, and staying home.

Sydnee: —staying home, staying safe, washing your hands.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Vigorously with soap and water for 20 seconds. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yes. There are lots of—I've seen lots of little Broadway clips of songs that you can sing that are 20 seconds.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Oh, and here—

Raleigh: That I use instead of Happy Birthday.

Taylor: —oh, and I—I—you know, I was thinking the other day how important it is to, like, make myself at some point dress like a presentable human. Uh, so I know we've joked in the past about outfits of the day [through laughter] on a couple of our episodes. Uh, if you wanna—if you wanna show off your outfit of the day on Twitter or online, if you wanna tweet at us, we will, uh—

Raleigh: Ooh.

Sydnee: Ooh.

Taylor: —you know, we'll just show off each other's outfits. Take a selfie in the mirror. It's so easy.

Raleigh: Your Oo-To-Do.

Taylor: Yeah. Show me your Oo-To-Do!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydney: We should do that. You can tag us on Twitter @stillbuff.

Raleigh: I'll do it too. That'll give me a reason to get out of my daytime pajamas.

Sydney: Hey, that's a great idea.

Taylor: Anything we can hold ourselves to. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: I don't show pictures of my kids on Twitter, which is too bad 'cause Charlie would love this idea.

Raleigh: You could show her clothes.

Taylor: Yeah, you could put a little smiley face over her sweet baby face. A lot of people do that.

Raleigh: Yeah, [unintelligible 43:50] face out of there.

Sydney: I could do what she's done to me, which is dress me.

Taylor: Ohh.

Raleigh: You should let her dress you!

Taylor: Yeah, why don't—

Sydney: She has—

Taylor: —why don't you do that? [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. I have—I have several outfits that she's put together for me. I'll let her dress me once. Uh, at least once, yeah.

Raleigh: Um, next week.

Sydnee: So, thank you, Tey.

Raleigh: Yes, thank you, Tey.

Sydnee: Thank you for bringing Veruca Salt to us. It was—

Raleigh: I really enjoyed it.

Sydnee: Yeah, and it was nice to listen to it again. I was glad I went ahead and downloaded both Eight Arms To Hold You and American Thighs so I could listen to 'em more often. Put 'em in my rotation.

Raleigh: I think that was something I never would've listened to if not for—

Taylor: Well, I'm glad.

Raleigh: —you giving it to me.

Taylor: Thank you both for listening.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, thanks.

Raleigh: I changed my mind throughout the course of this episode.

Sydnee: Okay!

Raleigh: I was going to say Animal Crossing was going to be next week.

Taylor: Oh!

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Because it has just been everything I've done.

Sydnee: And everyone else, I think.

Rileigh: And everyone else. But I think it's too soon.

Sydnee: It's too soon!

Rileigh: I think it's not enough time for you all to fully understand Animal Crossing, fully grasp it and appreciate it.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: So I have picked one of my next options that I had that I want to do soon, which is the Taylor Swift documentary on Netflix called Miss Americana.

Taylor: Oh, okay!

Sydnee: Oh nooo! [laughs]

Taylor: Alright. This is actually timely—

Rileigh: Listen.

Taylor: —'cause I saw that—her new video that came out apparently. Uh, about—

Rileigh: Yes. The man.

Taylor: —the—Kanye Taylor feud. [laughs]

Sydnee: The phone call, I actually read a transcript of it.

Rileigh: Oh, the phone call? Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I can't believe I can—I—I—

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [sighs]

Raleigh: But—

Sydnee: [whispers] Tough times.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: —basically there the things—[laughs] there are things that Taylor Swift has done that obviously are not great. But this documentary focuses a lot on the pressures on, like, being a teenage girl trying to be, like, your own person in the entertainment industry. And, like, dealing with powerful men who take your music and, you know, tell you what to do and how to act and all that stuff.

Sydnee: Alright. So, what's it called again?

Raleigh: Miss Americana.

Sydnee: Miss Americana.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: The Taylor Swift—

Raleigh: Documentary.

Sydnee: —documentary. It's on Net...

Raleigh: Netflix.

Sydnee: ...flix. Yes. So—

Raleigh: It's pretty short. It's like an hour and a half. It's very good.

Sydnee: I can't wait to tell Justin what we're watchin' this weekend!

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Charlie'll like it.

Sydnee: Char—yeah, she'll watch it with me.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: She likes T. Swift.

Raleigh: So we'll be back at a more regular time next week with that.

Sydnee: Yes. Thank you all for listening. Um, stay safe. Stay home. Uh, if you—I really think—I can't tell you how much it's meant to me. I got—I got—it started with, like, a Facebook message from somebody I just hadn't talked to in a while. And then it was like more came, texts and stuff, and then I started doing the same, and it's really nice to reach out to people and, like, check on 'em.

If you have, like, elderly relatives or friends or neighbors or anybody in your community, like, to call 'em and check on 'em is a really nice thing to do, 'cause they especially are trying to stay home. And offer, like, "Hey, do you need anything?" If you are making a very quick and very hand washing filled run to the store 'cause you need something, it's nice to check and see, like, "Did you need anything? Let me save you a trip. Please don't leave. Let me help you."

Um—and, uh, wash your hands. Stay home. We'll get through this!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Thank you to, uh, both of you.

Taylor: [laughs] And sa—same to you.

Raleigh: Thank you to both of you.

Taylor: And to both of you.

Sydnee: [laughs] And to all of us!

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: And to everyone.

Sydnee: And all of you at home, you can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. Thank you to Maximumfun.org for hosting this wonderful podcast. This—this—no. Hmm. That didn't sound—that was self-aggrandizing. For hosting *lots* of wonderful podcasts!

Rileigh: This wonderful podcast.

Taylor: Wow. Wow.

Sydnee: I'll be off hospital service next week and I will have slept. [laughs] I am sorry. And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

[theme music begins in the background]

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

[pauses]

Rileigh: [through laughter] I am still buffering...

Taylor: [through laughter] And I—

Sydnee: And—[laughs]

Taylor and Sydnee: —I... am... too.

Taylor: Clearly!

Rileigh: We all really are this week!

Taylor: Are not! The—the whole world is buffering right now.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Ev—yeah, that's the problem!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: We're just buffering. Don't worry. We will be done—the world will be done buffering soon. Maybe not us, but the world will.

[theme music plays]

Manolo: Hey, you've reached *Dr. Gameshow*. Leave your message after the beep.

Speaker One: *Dr. Gameshow* is my favorite podcast, and the only podcast my parents let me listen to, because I'm 12.

But even old people love this show. Basically, you call in, play games, and have fun. If you win a game, then they will send you a magnet in the mail.

I have *soo* many magnets, and put them all over my locker, and pretty much everyone at school is jealous, because they are very cool custom magnets, and it also means that I'm really good at winning games.

And they even let me practice my recorder live on the air! [a few squeaky recorder notes]

Listening to this show is like going to a real doctor, but... pretty much kind of better. *Dr. Gameshow* rocks! [a few squeaky recorder notes with a trill]

Jo: Listen to *Dr. Gameshow* on Maximum Fun. New episodes every other Wednesday.

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