

Still Buffering 212: "The Princess Bride" (1987)

Published on May 16th, 2020

[Listen here on TheMcElroy.family](#)

[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, I know you both are probably really excited for July 3rd.

Rileigh: I am.

Sydnee: You know what happens July 3rd!

Taylor: Oh, is that the *Hamilton* thing?

Sydnee: What we're all gonna be able to watch on TV!

Rileigh: That's the *Hamilton*!

Taylor: That's what it is!

Sydnee: The *Babysitter's Club* reboot on Netflix!

Rileigh: No.

Taylor: Oh... What? [laughs]

Sydnee: Is that not...

Rileigh: No!

Sydnee: Is that not...

Taylor: [laughing]

Raleigh: It's *Hamilton*, Sydnee!

Sydnee: But... Oh. Well—

Taylor: Is it both?

Sydnee: It's both! [laughs]

Taylor: Okay.

Raleigh: Surprise!

Sydnee: The jo—but see, the joke, the—the conceit, was that you would think... obviously, the... [laughs] The phenomenal, ground-breaking musical by our friend Lin is what you would think I was talking about, but instead... it was the *Babysitter's Club* reboot on Netflix. [laughs]

Raleigh: The *Babysitter's Club* reboot...

Taylor: Well...

[pause]

Raleigh: I—I read that—

Sydnee: Gotcha!

Taylor: Bait and switch there, a little...

Raleigh: Yeah! [laughing]

Taylor: Bait and switch.

Raleigh: I read that because *Hamilton's* gonna be on Disney+, they're censoring it, and getting out all the like, the—the inappropriate, not family-friendly parts? Um, which I hope isn't true, because I really like hearing Hercules Mulligan, you know... be—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: PG-13.

Sydnee: Well also, what about language? Like, are they gonna censor... bad words? [laughs]

Raleigh: I mean... You gotta ask Walt, I guess!

Taylor: But they have all like, the—no, they have the Marvel movies on there! I mean, I guess that those are—I mean, those are PG-13. They say bad words in the Marvel movies!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I hope they don't.

Raleigh: Me too.

Taylor: They have a lot of violence and adult situations and stuff in the Marvel movies. I can't imagine that they don't...

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: And—and *The Mandalorian!*

Raleigh: That's true--

Taylor: No! They—they—no way.

Raleigh: That's true.

Sydnee: That's true, there's a lot of violence. If you start—if you start going—I mean, like... all the Star Warses. [laughs]

Taylor: There is—there is some violence in the Star Warses, you are right!

Raleigh: Just a—just a few violences, but you're correct!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Just a few! [laughs]

Taylor: Violences?

Raleigh: Just a few violences! [laughing]

Sydnee: [laughing]

Taylor: Soft incest? Eh, I don't know. I don't think that—[laughs] I don't think that [unintelligible]—too hard!

Raleigh: That's fair! [laughing]

Sydnee: [laughing] We haven't even gotten into the last Star Wars movie!

Taylor: Hmm! [laughs]

Sydnee: If you—if you want to go down some problematic roads, um...

Taylor: Ah... [sighs]

Sydnee: No, we're not doing that!

Raleigh: I can't—

Sydnee: We're not doing that!

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: I can't handle that internet.

Taylor: No!

Raleigh: Fair.

Taylor: No, we will—

Sydnee: However—

Taylor: We will not.

Sydnee: We will—

Taylor: We have no opinions on a Star Wars.

Sydnee: I have no opinions on a Star Wars. Whatever your opinions are are fine, and I support them. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughing] Please... let us be.

Sydnee: Please... continue to feel about all the Star Wars however you feel about all the Star Wars! [laughs]

Taylor: We—we like baby Yoda. There we go.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: We can all agree on that.

Raleigh: Except, please don't tell us that he's not a baby Yoda, I can't handle it. Let's just—let us call him a baby Yoda! [laughs]

Taylor: [laughing] It's true!

Sydnee: We—we can all agree that we cried every time we saw Carrie Fisher on the screen, right?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: We can just all agree on that.

Raleigh: Right, sure.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: It's the one thing all Star Wars can agree on.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: We all agree: Carrie Fisher. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: There we go. We can all come together on that. But uh, yeah so July 3rd is a very exciting day, uh, for both of those reasons equally, I would say. For everyone! [laughs]

Raleigh: Well...

Sydnee: Also, it reminded me that I—I'm gonna have to introduce *Babysitter's Club* into this podcast, at some point, right?

Raleigh: [sighs] Yeah.

Taylor: Oh, yeah! Absolutely. Now are you gonna—

Raleigh: I guess that reminds me, I also have to do *Hamilton*!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That's fair.

Sydnee: That's good.

Taylor: There's a—there was a *Babysitter's Club* movie, with... the... Alex Mack in it, wasn't there?

Sydnee: I think you're right.

Taylor: It came out, at some point in the late '90s, early 2000s?

Sydnee: I believe that is—I believe that is accurate. This—this *Babysitter's Club*, the reason that it caught my attention, other than obviously I love *Babysitter's Club*, is that uh... in the trailer for it, it has them answering a phone, and like, it follows, first of all, a very long, like, corded-phone cord up to like—like as you're going through the trailer, it's like you're following—

As it's opening, you're following this very long cord through an obvious, like, teenager's room with cool teen stuff all around it. And when you get to the phone that I assume Christie is picking up, since she is, you know, the head of the babysitter's club, the president, uh, it's one of those phones where you can see through—

Taylor: Oh, yeah!

Sydnee: And see all of the... So, it feels like very of-a-moment. When I saw that, I was like “[gasps] It... Yes!” [laughs] “The phone we all wanted!”

Taylor: I was gonna say, I always wanted one, and I never got one! But I—I can't imagine that those were like—[laughs] Like, hard to come by!

Sydnee: Riley, have you seen those phones?

Raleigh: Yes, I have seen them in—Not in person. I’m—you know... Haven’t visited any ‘90s museums. Are th—do those exist?

Sydnee: [laughing] Wow!

Raleigh: Do you think they have like, a small museum exhibit, that’s dedicated just to like, stuff from the late ‘80s, and early ‘90s? Somewhere?

Taylor: Prob—probably.

Raleigh: They have to, right?

Sydnee: It would be popular.

Raleigh: I’m not saying it’s that old, I’m just saying that like, that seems like a thing that people would like, collect a lot of that stuff, that maybe you can’t use anymore... And that would be a thing a lot of people would be interested in going and seeing, for nostalgic reasons and for educational purposes.

Taylor: Man, if there was some way that I could have one in my house... Like, I don’t want a landline, but I want somehow to have a Bluetooth thing with my... my cellphone, where it could just ring on one of those massive...

Sydnee: Oh, man...

Taylor: Beautiful, plastic situations. What was—there was a fun moment in the ‘90s, where you were just like “Wow, technology is cool looking! Everything should be see-through!”

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: And we had like, computers that were, and phones that were and Gameboys that were...

Raleigh: I was gonna say—

Sydnee: Graphing calculators...

Raleigh: Wasn't there a Gameboy that was see-through?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. But the—but the graphing calculator was the coolest, right? We can all agree on that.

Taylor: Well—well...

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: [laughing] I—I loved—I never had one of those phones, but I did feel like, vindicated when I got one of the see-through graphing calculators. I was like, "Yes! Now... I have arrived."

Taylor: Well, okay. Good for you!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: 'Cause it was definitely the same level of cool, when you had friends over and you were like "Now, I know you all have the cool see-through phones at your house, but you'll never believe what I have!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: "Oh, a see-through Gameboy?"

"N—no."

"Oh, a see-through computer?"

"M—well, n—no. It's um, my see-through graphing calculator!"

And then just, silence.

Sydnee: It's so cool! [laughing]

Raleigh: [laughs] "Oh, wow..."

Taylor: “Yeah...”

Raleigh: “Whoa...”

Sydnee: [laughing] “Watch me graph this function! It’s so cool!”

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: “It makes a line right on the screen!” [laughs] I love graphing calculators.

Raleigh: I’m happy for you, Syd! [laughs]

Sydnee: I should get one of the see-through—[laughs] I should get one of the see-through phones, because Justin—for some reason we have a landline. It has something to do with something that he records, sometimes. I don’t—don’t really understand why we needed one. He just informed me at some point, “I’m having a landline put in, ‘cause I need one for something.” [laughs]

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: And so we have one. I don’t know what the phone number is, I don’t... I’m looking around his office right—I don’t see a phone. I don’t know if we have a phone. [laughing] But I know we have the ability to have a landline, so—

Taylor: Oh, so you gotta get one of those! And that’ll be like your secret number too, ‘cause I bet nobody knows it, so it’s like—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You hand that out to very select people.

Sydnee: That would be so cool. Uh, I will tell you that, it—for a long phone conversation, the old phones, *especially* those big cradle phones that were

corded, were so much more comfortable to rest against your shoulder for long periods of time, then these—these little flat rectangles we all use now.

Taylor: Yeah, but you know, it can't... have all of your apps and all of your... your—your tweets and everything on them. So...

Sydnee: Yeah, but—

Taylor: It's a sacrifice we had to make, for technology, Syd. We had to lose the giant hunk of useless plastic.

Sydnee: But they could have your crush on the other end, and then you don't need the apps.

Raleigh: Well, you can also have your crush on the other end of the... of an iPhone.

[pause]

Sydnee: Y—yes, I understand that. [laughs]

Raleigh: And you can see their face!

Taylor: You can see all of your crushes at the same time! [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Okay, well anyway... I'm just saying—

Raleigh: Are—is this what our podcast has gone back to? Debating the— [laughs] The bits and—and—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: But phones are def—

Raleigh: Triumphs of technology? [laughing]

Taylor: Phones are better now. We all know this.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: What are we talking about today? [laughs]

Sydnee: Alright. Well, uh... I have no transition, 'cause it has nothing to do with any of this. We're gonna talk about *The Princess Bride*. [laughs]

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: Hey, that's something that we can all agree is old and still excellent, I think.

Taylor: Yes. There is no way to update that, and make it better. I think that's true. Somebody will try, at some point.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: There—Somebody did try, right? There was that rumor that went around, like a couple of—like a year or two ago?

Raleigh: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: I feel like that's right.

Raleigh: That they were doing the reboot.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And I think like, the cast even got involved? [laughs]

Sydnee: I think I tweeted about it, actually! [laughs]

Taylor: You did!

Sydnee: Yeah. No, you're right! 'Cause I don't—I just—I mean, I'm not one of those people who like, gets all upset. If they want to reboot it, I'll probably watch it. But I don't really think they need to! It's just, they made a perfect movie. Leave it alone. [laughs] There!

Taylor: I think—

Raleigh: Sure, yeah.

Taylor: There's a shortage of perfect movies in the world. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I think that may have been what I tweeted!

Taylor: I was like, I feel like this is... Either you or an actual cast member tweeted that. Who knows?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Who can know? [laughing]

Sydnee: I think—I think I may have tweeted that, uh... Yeah, because it... So obviously, I love *The Princess Bride*. We're gonna mainly talk about the movie, but um, it is also—it is my favorite book, so... I will probably talk about that. And I also wrote—I also read... I didn't write it, 'cause that's a lie. I read—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] Cary Elwes', like, behind the scenes kind of like... Story of the making of *The Princess Bride*, "As You Wish".

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: I read that as well, so I—I know lots about *The Princess Bride*. Not—

Raleigh: So you're just a big old nerd for this movie?

Sydnee: I am. I'm a big old nerd for this movie. Not like insider info. I mean, it's all readily available to anyone who wants to read this book, but...

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: I did. [laughs] Uh, *The Princess Bride* movie came out in '87.

Taylor: Oh, wow.

Raleigh: Wow...

Sydnee: When we were very... Yeah. Very little. Raleigh was not around yet.

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Still 13 years... B.R.

Sydnee: The—the book is from—I didn't realize—I don't know if I realized how—I knew it was older, but it's from '73.

Taylor: Oh wow!

Sydnee: Yes. Yeah, William Goldman wrote the book in '73, um... William Goldman was always one of the people, uh, who is—he's no longer with us now, sadly, but I always thought like, if there was somebody that I could meet, that I simultaneously would love to meet in person but also would be so terrified to like, say something dumb in front of, it was William Goldman.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: Like I always thought, like, if I ever saw him, I'd want to say like... I mean, I would get in the line of people who would say, "Your book meant so much to me!" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: The very long line. But also, then I would say something dumb and think, "Now I've said something dumb to William Goldman, so I can't live with myself anymore." [laughs]

Raleigh: Fair.

Taylor: I feel like it's unfair that of all the Smirl siblings, I am the one that has interacted with—with William Goldman. 'Cause I got to serve him tea at a restaurant that I worked at!

Raleigh: Whaaat?

Sydnee: Ah...

Taylor: Yeah! I think I've told this story before, but—

Sydnee: You have told me this.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know if you've told it on our show.

Taylor: I was uh, I was a barista at a very fancy restaurant in SoHo, and uh, he came in one night. He was actually a fairly regular, there. He had been there a few times before, and uh... At the end of dinner, I got to bring him out tea!

Sydnee: Wow.

Taylor: He said, "Thank you!" And I said, "No, thank you!"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: So that was it. [laughing]

Sydnee: That was it? You didn't say—

Raleigh: You didn't set it down and say, "as you wish"? [laughs]

Taylor: No!

Sydnee: Exactly! [laughs]

Taylor: No! I didn't want to like, make it obvi—like, I think he probably gets that a lot? And I—it's also kind of an unstated rule in like high-end service, like, you're not really allowed to parti—to act like you know who the people are?

Sydnee: Mmm. [Understanding]

Taylor: I might have lost my job, if I said that, actually. I probably would have. 'Cause it was a very cool place, where we pretended that celebrities were regular people.

Raleigh: Right.

Taylor: But...

Sydnee: I feel like—I feel like William Goldman would not have been... this is my fantasy. He would not have been upset about that, though. I have no idea. Like, obviously—

Taylor: I would like to think that, but I—yeah, I don't know.

Sydnee: But also, he probably has had servers say "as you wish" to him. Like, he probably had that happen on a regular basis, didn't he?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I—I feel like in our pre-shift meeting, we were told that we explicitly could not say that. [laughing] To him, or anything.

Sydnee: [laughing]

Taylor: Like, “Guys, it’s not funny. It’s definitely not funny.” [laughs] “Don’t do it!”

Raleigh: It’s like, the one time he made the mistake of not going to like a, a fancy high-end restaurant in New York, and he was just like chilling in, you know, an Applebee’s or the Olive Garden.

Taylor: [laughing] I can see that!

Sydnee: [laughing]

Raleigh: All the servers came out, like singing him, instead of the birthday song, it was like an “as you wish” version. [laughs]

Taylor: Oh no!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: “Whelp, nope! Never make that mistake again!” [laughs]

Taylor: Just took all the orders in—in the rhyme scheme of the—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm!

Taylor: That game. Yeah.

Sydnee: They’ll sing the song from the movie. [singing] “Our love is like a storybook story!” [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah that would... that would not be—

Raleigh: [laughs] What a song!

Taylor: That would not be a good way to do your job. That'd be a terrible way to do your job.

Raleigh: It's true.

Sydnee: Uh, I was so obsessed with this movie... This really dates me. I was so obsessed with this movie when I was younger, that uh, when you could start—when the—when computers were a thing that we all had access to, or a lot of us did, and you could start getting things off the internet, like, clips of, like sound bites from movies?

Taylor: [laughs] Oh god...

Sydnee: I went wild on the internet, trying to find sound bites from—

Taylor: Yeah, you did!

Sydnee: I mean like, little, like, mp3s or whatever, of just like Westley, saying, like, "As you wish." Or something like that, and putting them on our desktop! [laughing]

Taylor: I was gonna say—

Sydnee: I hoped they were— [laughing]

Taylor: Yeah, you didn't understand how to make a desktop folder, 'cause look, I was downloading like, like... images of anime that I would wait three hours for, for like one pixelated picture of Sailor Moon, but I at least had the decency to make a folder on the desktop, and put my stuff in it!

Sydnee: [laughing]

Taylor: You just left the desktop littered with “Westley.wav”! [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I did! [laughing] I did! So many of those files all over the desktop, 'cause I didn't know how to do that. That was why—that was the origin of your Teylo-personal.

Taylor: Yeah!

Taylor: That—

Sydnee: Taylor had her—had a Teylo-Personal file.

Taylor: Well, I think there was one that like—

Raleigh: I mean, it sounds necessary!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: It—it automatically generated as personal. Like, it was a empty folder?

Sydnee: Uh-huh?

Taylor: And I tried to put my name in front of it, and filled up this—the character alignment, and just left it that way. So, I didn't—I guess I didn't realize you could backspace the title of a folder?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: It was—it was the early days of understanding how computers worked! [laughing]

Raleigh: That's what you should call your autobiography.

Taylor: "Teylo-Personal."

Raleigh: "Teylo-Personal." [laughs]

Taylor: I know... You guys made fun of me so hard for that, too! It was like... And I don't know what—

Sydnee: It was just so... it was cute!

Taylor: I don't know what I was thinking, labeling a folder that I have on the family computer as "personal," and not realizing that was an open invitation for you to both mock me horribly, and *definitely* look in it! [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: That is not—not thought through, on my part! [laughing] "Well surely I if label this 'personal,' my family will respect my boundaries, my 11 year-old boundaries!" Nope!

Sydnee: [laughs] Well as a parent, I can tell you that if I looked on—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, Charlie and Cooper don't have computers. But if I looked on our computer and it was "Charlie-Personal," I'd be like "What? Oh! I'm looking in—what is in this?"

Taylor: [laughing] Yeah! "You want me to see this, right?"

Sydnee: [laughing] Right? "What do you think is personal for me, right now?"

Raleigh: Um, Sydnee—

Taylor: I mean to be fair, I had pictures of like, Sailor Uranus and Neptune in there, and at the time it felt very confusing and scandalous, so... [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughing]

Sydnee: [laughing] I can imagine our parents just going, "It's a bunch of cartoons... I don't... I don't understand." [laughs]

Raleigh: "Why is it personal?" [laughs]

Taylor: [laughing] "Some of them love each other!"

Sydnee: It's like, "Okay... That's fine, Tey. Keep your... personal file." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Um, Sydnee, I—

Taylor: "Let's try to figure things out!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Go ahead. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] I uh, am curious to know; I have not read the book, and I have seen the movie, several times.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm?

Raleigh: So, as someone who I think, as we—the three of us, usually tend to feel the book usually is superior to the movie, in not just this form, but in many forms, um... How does the book compare to the movie, in terms of like, accuracy and superiority?

Sydnee: The uh, the—I mean there—it's uh, the movie's a really good representation of the book. Like, it's a really nice—it captures the spirit, I think? 'Cause the whole spirit of the book is that it's... this, you know, romance, and it's set in the days of princes and princesses.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: And it's all, you know, like, the fairytale-thing. But then it's got, you know, a little bit of a tongue-in-cheek thing, it's got humor to it, um... It's not supposed to just be, like, sweeping romance.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: And the other part of it that I think is really hard, that they found a good way to nail, is that in the book, they have the set-up of William Goldman as a young boy, really sick, in bed. And his grandfather reading him *The Princess Bride*.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That is—that is all like, in the book.

Taylor: Ah!

Raleigh: So meta!

Sydnee: Which, if you think about it—I know, it is very meta! And that's also like, the talent to do that, like, "Here's what I'm gonna do." He has come up with this story that, he's a little boy sick in bed, his grandfather's coming to read him a story while he's sick in bed...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: And the story he's reading him, *The Princess Bride* by S. Morgenstern, is a very long, historical text that will be boring, in many ways, for a young sick kid. And so, he's editing. As he's reading, the grandfather is, on the fly, cutting out anything that wasn't good.

Raleigh: Exciting?

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes. And—and just doing, what is then referred to as “The Good Parts” version.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: And all of that, and here’s the wild thing – I remember when I first read the book, trying to find out – again, early days of the internet – trying to figure out if there really was a book called *The Princess Bride* by S. Morgenstern that had all those other bits in it!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I really thought that like, William Goldman really did edit S. Morgenstern’s book, into the “Good Parts” version, and publish it, and if I could just look hard enough, I could find S. Morgenstern’s version.

Raleigh: But it does not exist.

Sydnee: He sells it. [laughs]

Taylor: I remember—

Raleigh: Wow.

Taylor: I think I remember you explaining that to me. Like, that’s—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: There’s a book out there that, that’s the real one. And I’m like, “Oh wow!”

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Seems like you couldn't just do that to somebody else's work of literature and get away with it, though!

Raleigh: Yeah! [laughs]

Taylor: It's pretty disrespectful! [laughs]

Sydnee: I really—'cause that's—that's the stuff in the book that um, isn't... And I mean, they don't say all that in the movie. They have of course, Peter Falk as the grandfather reading the book, but it's not clear that he's editing it to just the good parts, from the movie.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Um... the uh, the stuff that is cut out—'cause they have this whole story in the book, Raleigh, about like, he's... uh... he's giving it, William Goldman's giving it to his son to read...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: And his son can't read it, 'cause it's the original one.

Raleigh: Mmm. Okay.

Sydnee: And it has all of this like, political, historical stuff in it, and references, and these big long descriptions of things that are supposed to be like, satirical representations of the monarchy, and all this other stuff.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: Um, and his son doesn't like it because of that, and so then he does this in part, so that his son will have the "Good Parts" version to read.

Raleigh: Got it.

Sydnee: And it has throughout the book, these little annotations of, "At this

point, we're supposed to have like a twenty-page description of the wardrobe of one of the characters, to—" And, "This was like a send-up of the monarchy and their excess, and how rich these people are, compared to these people, and to show all this, and whatever, but I cut all of it off—all of that out, because it was boring." That kind of thing.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: The one thing that I feel like that the movie does lack, is the Zoo of Death.

[pause]

Raleigh: M'kay?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Is that—

Sydnee: Do you remember that, from the book?

Taylor: In the part—like, on the way to the torture... The torture-room? You go through the Zoo of Death?

Sydnee: Exactly. Before you get to the Pit of Despair, where Westley is kept when he is tortured on the machine, and then, you know, subsequently killed. Almost dead. Uh, mostly dead.

Is, uh, you have to descend through levels of animals that the prince has caught while hunting, and collected inside his Zoo of Death. And each level of the Zoo of Death is a different, like, type of threat?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: Some are really fast, some are poisonous, some are really strong, whatever. And on each level, it's a whole collection of deadly animals... that he has caught, and then can—and like, release and hunt, at his leisure.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um... And they describe going down through the Zoo of Death, in the book.

Taylor: Hmm...

Sydnee: And that I think, would've been a very cool thing to see... you know, visually represented.

Taylor: Well I al—and then the—'cause the last one was like a super-poisonous spider, right? Like it's behind the door handle?

Sydnee: Yeah! Yes.

Taylor: But because they kicked down the door, it doesn't matter? [laughs] Is that right?

Sydnee: [laughs] Exactly! And they have this—he has this whole build-up of this spider, hiding behind the door handle waiting, and how like you're just waiting, like, "Oh no, they're gonna grab the door handle and then they're gonna... And then they're gonna get bitten, and that's it! And they're gonna die from this spider!" And then they just like, kick down the door and stomp on the spider, and run right through and it's not even a thing. It's so brilliant! It's so smart.

Taylor: I remember liking that part. [laughs]

Sydnee: But then at the bottom, is when they find Westley.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Who, at that point, is mostly dead.

Raleigh: Got it.

Taylor: Well, and the characters were a little different, book to movie, right? Like... I mean...

Sydnee: Slightly. I would say that the most different is Buttercup.

Taylor: She's a real, uh—

Sydnee: Um—

Taylor: Go ahead. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] What were you gonna say? No, what were you gonna say?

Taylor: I was gonna say, she was kind of a dumb-o in the book though, right? [laughing]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Yes! You know what? Hold on, we have to—we have to explore—I have a lot to say about Buttercup's character! So, real fast...

Taylor: Okay. Alright, alright.

Sydnee: [laughs] Before—Before we discuss, uh, Buttercup may be a bit of a... [laughs] Dumb-o.

Taylor: [laughing]

Sydnee: [laughing]

Raleigh: A dumb-o, as we are going to eloquently refer to it as, for the rest of the episode.

Taylor: [laughing] I'm sorry!

Raleigh: I love it! [laughs]

Sydnee: No... I was gonna say "a ditz," but... [laughs]

Taylor: Eh, alright! That's fine!

Raleigh: Dumb-o's better! [laughs]

Sydnee: Alright, but before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

--

Sydnee: Uh, we have a Jumbotron this week. This is exciting! Two weeks in a row, with Jumbotrons!

Raleigh: Whoop whoop!

Sydnee: I love that, I love—I love when we get to send personal messages to people.

Taylor: Yes!

Raleigh: I forgot we did them for a while. [laughs]

Taylor: Yes, me too!

Sydnee: [laughs] Well, we do them! For anyone who's interested, and we can do things in Jumbotrons, like wish Scout a happy graduation!

Raleigh: Woohoo!

Taylor: Happy graduation, Scout!

Sydnee: So, yeah! Happy graduation, Scout!

Raleigh: Happy graduation!

Sydnee: Scout, this is uh—this Jumbotron is from your Still Buffering pals, Doug, Jenny, and Alyssa. And they say, “Scout is our friend who went back to school, and just got her bachelors in parks management!”

Taylor: Oh wow!

Raleigh: Wow!

Sydnee: And now is graduating! So Doug, Jenny, and Alyssa are proud of you, and wanna wish you a happy graduation, Scout!

Taylor: Great job, Scout!

Raleigh: Well, congratulations, Scout!

Sydnee: That’s—that’s fantastic.

Raleigh: Amazing.

Sydnee: I assume that you then go on to become Leslie Knope.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: I was gonna say, there is only one career path, there. Yeah.

Sydnee: Right?

Raleigh: Or... Ron Swanson.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: Or, Ron Swanson. Equal—you know what? Equally cool in different ways, Scout!

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: I think they're very—like, they're opposite paths, but both end in very cool paces, so...

Raleigh: True.

Sydnee: Either way, I don't think there's a losing... a losing Parks and Rec character here. [laughs]

Raleigh: No. Unless you're Jerry.

Sydnee: Well, congratulations. Unless you're Jerry! [laughs] And you know, even Jerry... [laughing]

Raleigh: [laughing]

Sydnee: Even Jerry Gary Larry, uh... You know? Has a wonderful life, so...

Raleigh: It's true. Alright, well congratulations, Scout.

Sydnee: Happy graduation, Scout.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Good job!

--

Uh, so as you—as you alluded to, yes. Buttercup is the most different, I would say, of the characters in the book. Um, because you get this sense that, uh, she's—like you said, she's not necessarily... the brightest. [laughs]

Taylor: And I mean, it's kind of like a purposeful, like... played for laughs, like... She's this beautiful like, "Oh! Otherworldly, beautiful!" But it's like "Oh, baby, what you doing?" [laughs] Like, all the time! [laughing]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: She—she named her horse “Horse,” which I think is like...

Raleigh: Wow.

Sydnee: That’s one of the best...

Raleigh: That’s great! [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] Um... And I said—the comment is like, she was never very creative, or long on imagination, or something. She named her horse “Horse,” and... [laughs]

Uh, but yeah. They do give you the sense that she’s not supposed to be particularly bright. Especially in the beginning, when it’s just the—you know, Buttercup and the farm boy, before Westley is Westley.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um... They do go through—I do think that’s something, also that is—and again, you couldn’t put this in the movies. This is not—I am not criticizing the movie in any way. I think it’s perfect and wonderful. And yes, there, of course, as a lover of the book, there are things I would love to see, like, visually represented. Especially with those same characters, ‘cause I thought it was all cast so beautifully.

Uh, but... You know, you can’t put everything in a movie. And I don’t know how you do a run-down of the most beautiful people in the world... up until Buttercup becomes the most beautiful woman in the world? Which like, there’s this whole story...

Taylor: Oh yeah...

Sydnee: Yeah, where they describe at first, the most beautiful woman in

the world was this person, and Buttercup was barely in the top twenty. And then there was this person, and then this is what happened to them, and...

You know, they have all these little funny vignettes about the most beautiful women in the world, before Buttercup, but I—that would be—I don't know how you'd do that in a movie. It would be too much.

Raleigh: Yeah. That's fair.

Sydnee: It's very—it's very cool to read.

Um, but I keep getting notifications, by the way, that Justin has ordered, uh... Kentucky Fried Chicken... [laughs] for the girls.

Raleigh: Oh. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] Sorry.

Taylor: Okay. Alright.

Raleigh: [laughing] Delightful!

Sydnee: [laughing] I get—we share a uh, a... I don't wanna plug any specific... a food delivery app, and I keep—sorry, I keep getting these notifications. So that's great. So, my children are eating... KFC.

Taylor: Hmm.

Raleigh: Well...

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: [laughs] Anyway.

Um, but that—I would say that's the most different. Like, Westley is pretty much Westley, and um... you know, our Vizzini and Inigo, and uh, Fezzik, I feel like are very similar. I feel like they were cast so well.

Taylor: I'm—yeah... like, you know, Westley and Buttercup? That's cool and all. But I really just wanna watch Inigo and Fezzik.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: That's where my interests lie in this movie. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and especially like, Inigo—I mean, Andre the Giant is wonderful as Fezzik; this is not me like, comparing the two. But I think it's interesting, because Andre the Giant's storyline is a little more straightforward. Fezzik's storyline. [laughs] They're—they're all in my head, it's all overlap.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, Mandy Patinkin, as Inigo Montoya, like you don't get... In the book, they give you the whole backstory of each of these characters, and so you like, you—when he talks about his father being murdered by the six-fingered man...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm

Sydnee: Like, I—I don't know, but the way that it's written, at least for me, I felt that pain, and that suffering, and this like, lifelong quest for vengeance for the death of his father. Like, it's all there, and Mandy Patinkin isn't given a lot of time to do that on film. But of course, since it's Mandy Patinkin, he can do it.

Raleigh: Right.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, you know? You feel that in the movie, like that—I mean, his—his character is so serious in a movie that is also very funny!

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: He's my favorite...

Sydnee: I think about this a lot. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: He is my fave. Absolute fave in the movie.

Raleigh: They're all complex.

Sydnee: They are. They are complex characters, and you get—you get more of that when you read the book, 'cause you get to hear the actual stories of each character, but I mean, I don't think you lose a lot of it just because, again, it was cast so well, and directed so well, and adapted so well. Um...

Taylor: Uh, the... just, as far as like iconic scenes, the—the sword fight between, uh, Inigo and Westley... that is not real swordplay, right? That is purposefully like, theater swordplay?

Sydnee: No, they—I mean, they really did the—they really learned how to swordfight.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Sydnee: Yeah. They uh, decided they didn't want it to do... as much as possible, they didn't want to do any stunt doubles or anything. They wanted them to learn how to fight. And—'cause it's funny, 'cause if you read "As You Wish," Cary Elwes was young, and this was like... I think this was like his first big thing. And Mandy Patinkin was kind of already a well-known, well respected like... you know, actor.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Like, real-deal actor. And he took the task of learning sword fighting so seriously, and he—Cary Elwes was very intimidated, like, “Oh my gosh! I don’t want to screw up this scene!” [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: “With Mandy Patinkin!” [laughing] “I’m gonna look so dumb!” Um, but no, they worked and worked and worked, to do that... So that it looked like that.

Raleigh: Wow.

Sydnee: Which is really cool.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, yeah. It’s a very—it’s a very impressive scene. I think the thing... Because I mean, we could sit and talk about like... just, the movie is great, and the book is great, all day, but I think the thing that really connected with me when I was younger, because I actually... I was introduced to the movie and the book at the same time, by our uncle Michael. I was—

Raleigh: Scampy Mike.

Sydnee: Yeah, Scampy Mike. I was spending the night over at our grandparents house, um, and Michael was... maybe in college at the time? Perhaps? Or I don’t know if he was still in high school, or maybe in college, in like a summer where he was still staying there.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Uh, so... He was our—our young, cool uncle.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I mean, he still is, I guess.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: But like, when we were—

Taylor: Yeah, don't take that away from him! [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: [laughs] No, he still is. But he uh... he was talking about *The Princess Bride*. No, I found the book! That's why. I saw the book on his bookshelf, and I said, "What's this?" Because, like, it didn't... I don't know. I think I probably was very like, naive at the time and thought like, "This looks like a girl book! Why does Uncle Michael have it?" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Sure.

Taylor: Valid.

Sydnee: Which—well, it's, you know. That was a dumb thing to think. But I uh, so I asked him and he said "You ever read this?"

"No."

And he said "Well you've seen the movie?"

"No! What's the movie?"

"Oh my gosh, okay!" So he drove us to Movie Max...

Raleigh: Oh my gosh...

Sydnee: And—yes.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And we went in, and he—

Raleigh: [snickering]

Sydnee: I know! [laughs] This is so—this is so of-a-moment! We went to Movie Max together, uh, in his Jeep, and we went in, and he um, knew the guy behind the counter. It was like, one of his friends, who worked at Movie Max, which I thought was like... My head was exploding, it was the coolest thing ever. [laughs] Like—

Taylor: “You know—”

Sydnee: “You *know* the guy?!” [laughing]

Taylor: [laughing] “I bet he can get us some free rentals!”

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: “This is the coolest thing that’s ever happened to me. And so we went, and we rented *The Princess Bride*, like, on VHS, and then went back home—went back to mama and papa’s house, and watched it, and had milkshakes. And I still remember this like, formative experience, um, of watching it and thinking like, “This is my thing! Like, this—this is... me! I get it!”

Raleigh: [laughing] “Me, now!”

Taylor: And it was! It still is. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes! It still is! [laughs]

Sydnee: And it is! And I started—as soon as I finished watching the movie, I started reading the book. I stayed up way too late that night, reading a ton of the book. Uh, and then I just—I mean, I... it was probably a day or two, and I was done with the whole book. And I have read it, I couldn’t tell you how many times, since then.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, countless times. I have multiple copies of it, like, the various editions that came out. Had to replace one, 'cause it has like, an—a lengthy—[laughs] A lengthy little um... uh... thing from the boyfriend at the time, who gave it to me. [laughs]

Taylor: Oh, no! Yeah...

Raleigh: Oh no!

Sydnee: Inscription. A lengthy inscription, from—from that boyfriend, which seemed like a weird thing to just keep on our shelf. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Just use some white-out. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] Well, it wasn't like—I didn't seek to replace it. I think like, another boyfriend was like, "I got you a new copy, to replace that one that has your old boyfriend's..."

Taylor: Ah.

Sydnee: "Inscription in it." Uh—

Raleigh: And then what did—what did Justin do, when you were like, "Well I have this really old version that has a lengthy inscription from one boyfriend. Now I have a new version, that was from another boyfriend to replace the old version." [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing]

Raleigh: Justin was just like, "Okay, um, here, I got you uh, two different

copies of the book, and two different copies of the movie!" [laughs] "Please never—just get rid of all the other ones!"

Sydnee: [laughing] He did—he did get me a new copy of it, 'ause they had—it was—they've had various anniversary editions come out over the years. And one of them had—and this is the one I think he got me, I don't remember which anniversary it was. But, it had the uh, first chapter of what was supposed to be the follow-up book, "Buttercup's Baby."

Raleigh: Oh.

Taylor: But that—was that actually a real thing, or was that just kind of another, like, "Ha ha, it's not a real book but here's like a... chapter from it!"

Raleigh: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: Tey, I—I don't know.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I waited and waited.

Raleigh: [laughing]

Sydnee: I hoped so much, that another book was coming. I read that first chapter over and over again. Uh, I—but I never knew if it was really like, "Yes, there is going to be another book." Or, "This is just kind of a joke, too." I never knew, and... I mean obviously, there's not gonna be one now, and I—yeah. I always—I kept waiting. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, and I mean part of that's because the book, uh... It's, correct me if I'm wrong, but it ends on a, kind of a... negative note. I mean, not like hardcore. Like, you don't know what really happened, but isn't there like an ending where everything goes wrong? [laughs] In the book?

Sydnee: It's... so again, yes. In the—well, yes and no. So, in the fiction that this is an S. Morgenstern book that is being edited by William Goldman, uh,

the original version of the book that S. Morgenstern writes, ends with, they're riding off together on the horses, but that is until Westley relapses and Inigo's wound opens, and one of the horses throw their shoe, and the night is filled with the sounds of, you know... pursuit, or something like that, is how it ends.

Rileigh: Hmm.

Sydnee: And so it's like, you don't know.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: Like, there—it's still an adventure. You're not sure if they get away. Um but what William Goldman says is, "But I ended it the way I would like it to end, which is, 'And the four of them rode off together.' And that's it. And therein—you know. They lived happily ever after."

Rileigh: So I guess that's technically like, the ending?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Because there's no book to be altering, I guess? Right?

Taylor: There's no actual S. Morgenstern book, so yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: So...

Sydnee: So yeah. So I guess—so I guess that is the—I don't know—God. It's all so clever, um, and it—

Rileigh: It's all so weird, now that I think about it. [laughs]

Taylor: I know, it's kinda—

Sydnee: It's—

Taylor: It's kind of like hypertext, right?

Raleigh: Mmm. Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It is! It really—it's funny, because the more I think about it, the more I think all of this is why, aside, again, from—it—it's so obvious to say like, "I really liked *The Princess Bride!*" 'Cause like... I've never met anybody who didn't like it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I've met people who obviously, aren't as wild about it as I am? Most aren't.

Raleigh: I don't think there's anyone who is! [laughs]

Sydnee: But I've never met anybody who's like—yeah. [laughs] But I mean, have you ever met a person who's like, "I hated that! Stinker!"? [laughs]

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: Yeah, is that what you get a lot, whenever you talk to people that—about how much you love *Twilight*?

[pause]

Sydnee: Uh... Yes. [laughs]

Taylor: Wait, did we just compare *The Princess Bride* to *Twilight*?

Raleigh: [laughing]

Taylor: That's—

Raleigh: No! No, I'm just saying like, *The Princess Bride* is one of those

books Sydnee loves, that she's not gonna tell anyone she loves it, and anyone's gonna be like, "How do you love that?"

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: But Sydnee also loves *Twilight*. [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't wanna talk about that. [laughs]

Raleigh: Okay. [laughing]

Taylor: Well... and we're not. We're not gonna talk about it, ever!

Raleigh: We're not!

Taylor: Right? Never!

Raleigh: No!

Taylor: Never ever!

Sydnee: I'm just—

Taylor: No one—the only person that legally can bring it to the table of discussion is Raleigh, 'cause it is in *her* age range, not yours.

Raleigh: Oh!

Taylor: So it is null and void on this show, thank you very much!

Sydnee: [grumbling]

Raleigh: Ah! Wow.

Sydnee: "Midnight Sun" is coming out, just... think about that.

Taylor: What does that mean? Is that a thing?

Sydnee: It's a new book.

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: In the *Twilight* series.

Taylor: Geez...

Sydnee: It's coming out this summer. Anyway, uh—

Raleigh: [laughs] *Twilight* and *The Princess Bride* are—

Sydnee: Obviously, *The Princess Bride* is—[laughs] It's far superior to all of the *Twilight* stuff.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: In my opinion. This is just my humble opinion. It is far superior, but I do enjoy them both. But the—the thing about it, I think, that I found so like... "Oh, I'm going to incorporate this into me. Like, now this is part of me."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: "And I'm going to shape part of how I see the world, and react to things, because of this." I think a lot of it is that play on... it's a fairy tale, and I think that like, that kind of, like, hopeful, magical thinking is definitely... part of my brain. But I also live very much in reality, and believe in like... evidence and facts, and proof and science, and like, things to make my decisions.

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: And it's funny, because the book allows you to have both. The book gives you both, like, "You know, this is how—this is how the story really ends." And that's probably the truth. If you're running away from

the—from Prince Humperdinck, who is still alive now, so he can chase you, and he's got all of the—all of his armies and men at his disposal, like, why do you think you can get away from him? I know you took his four horses, but... [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: He's probably got others!

Taylor: [laughing] "Nope! Just four, whole kingdom. Weird!"

Sydnee: [laughing]

Raleigh: "That's all of them!"

Sydnee: He has—we already know he has a whole ar—like, armada of ships. We know he can find you guys, and like... Westley was dead! [laughs] And I know that he—we brought him back to life, but like, we don't know what that magic's like.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Miracle Max got fired, so we're not really sure how great he was. Um, and it—Inigo has been injured, like—

Taylor: He's been stabbed a lot. Like, profusely stabbed! [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes!

Raleigh: A lot of times. [laughs]

Sydnee: So there's a lot of reason to worry about these people. And like, their—their future success. [laughs] Um, they have a lot—the odds are stacked against them, and like that's all there, but then it's like, "You know, but in my mind, this is what happened."

And I—that kind of worldview, I think just, it was like, “Ah! This is—okay! Yes! Yes. This is how I proceed in the world, and now I have found someone who thinks the same and a whole work of fiction that supports it, and I’m good now.” [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Well, yeah, ‘cause it has that self-awareness that fairy tales aren’t necessarily what you get in life. Like it’s, you know, it’s a fairy tale, but it’s a very like... like, “We know what we’re doing, and we’re gonna subvert it when we can.” Which I think, makes it—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I don’t think I would—I would usually—and I’m not usually big into fantasy, this kind of fantasy stuff, like, but this is—

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That part of it speaks to me. It’s, you know, it’s verging on like the... like, the Mel Brooks, like the *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* kind of parody, but it’s still taking itself seriously.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: It still has heart to it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah, I’m right there with you Tey. ‘Cause I’m not usually not a big fantasy reader or watcher, but I think the reason I enjoy this is because it has that other level to it of the story being told and changed, and it being like, a meaningful story that’s being told to a child from a grandfather. Not just like, “Here’s this fantasy world!” And it’s, you know—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: It's got layers, and it's not all perfect and romantic, and... I enjoy that.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um... I like—I like giving the—I mean, other than Vizzini, I like the idea that the bad guys aren't all bad.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, I mean, I guess Prince Humperdinck is bad. Uh... Yeah. And Count Rugen isn't so great. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah no, they're pretty bad! [laughs]

Raleigh: So some bad guys are bad. [laughs]

Sydnee: Alright. So some bad guys are bad, but... [laughs] Inigo and Fezzik just, you know, fell in with the wrong crowd. [laughing]

Raleigh: Sure! [laughing]

Sydnee: They—They just had some rough times, and—

Taylor: Bad influences! [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. And they get—they get to like, recover from that. They are—we can rehabilitate them, and integrate them back into society successfully.

Taylor: [laughing]

Sydnee: And I like that. [laughs] I like that part of the story. Um, you get more of, in the book, too, like, the love between Buttercup and Westley,

which it—it can come off as very like, that kind of superficial fairy tale thing, where it's just like, "Oh look, they're both incredibly beautiful."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "And in proximity, so... That's what it takes!" [laughs]

Taylor: "That's love!" [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Beautiful people, not socially distanced! [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing]

Raleigh: [laughs] Yeah!

Sydnee: That's love! [laughing]

Raleigh: That's love.

Sydnee: Um, and it—it can come across that way, if you think about it too much, but in the book, like, there's more to it. They grow together more. And especially like, the moment in the fire swamp where Buttercup says, "I'll go back with you," to Prince Humperdinck, "if you just let him live." In the book, it's a lot harsher.

She's—I mean, 'cause she's like, you know, "I can live without love. I've done it before. I thought you were dead, I decided I would never love again. I'll just go back to being that cold, removed person, and you can go sail your ships, and everything's fine."

Which is like, harsh!

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, and they grow from that, and they like, reconnect after that.

And I don't know, I think—there's more to it, in the book. Like it—it shows the reality of a relationship a lot more than your typical fairy tale, I think.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know the part in every relationship, where your true love is killed on a machine and then brought back to life. [laughs]

Raleigh: Right!

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: By a miracle man. [laughs]

Raleigh: We've all been there.

Sydnee: [laughing] On a life-sucking machine, I should say.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: The obvious, you know. Of course. Uh...

But anyway, if you haven't, uh, seen the movie, you should see the movie. I don't know who hasn't, but if you haven't, it's on Disney+, so you can see it there.

Taylor: So good.

Sydnee: Um... Yeah. I—I own many copies, on various—[laughs]

Taylor: [laughing]

Sydnee: I have many copies of VHS, the DVD of—

Raleigh: The book! [laughs]

Sydnee: An anniversary version or two, of the DVD, yes. And I have uh, many copies of the book, if you need one!

Taylor: You—you had uh, a *Princess Bride*, a light *Princess Bride* theme to your wedding. I remember that.

Sydnee: That's true! That's true. Very light, yes.

Taylor: Yes, you... what was the—I—I guess, 'cause... So okay, your party, or your... favor, for your bridesmaids, we all got flasks, and all the other ones said, "As you wish." But mine said, "Prepare to die!" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing]

Taylor: I remember that!

Sydnee: Well, I knew what you would appreciate!

Taylor: Yeah! No, absolutely! [laughs]

Sydnee: And I definitely um... I wasn't—I won't say I was cosplaying as Buttercup for any proms, but... more or less.

Raleigh: Basically.

Taylor: You were also always cosplaying as—you never wore the red, though.

Sydnee: Uh, I did for a murder-mystery weekend.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I went to. [laughs]

Taylor: Really?

Sydnee: With Justin, a couple years ago, yeah.

Taylor: Oh that's right!

Sydnee: I dressed as—we dressed as uh, Westley and Buttercup for that.

Taylor: I remember seeing that. I've seen that dress...

Sydnee: Yeah, I—so I do have a *Princess Bride* costume now. 'Cause it—'cause periodically, Charlie will encourage me to put it on, and she dresses as other princesses. She has many princess costumes, and we will... we will be princesses together. So, I still occasionally do that. Um...

But it's—it's great, and you should read the book. Because it's wonderful, and heart-felt. And I think it's the kind of thing, if you've got free time right now, it makes you feel really warm and good.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um... I also have a clock. [laughs]

Raleigh: That's—

Sydnee: Of *The Princess Bride*. [laughing]

Raleigh: Good... [laughs]

Sydnee: And a tote bag!

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: Uh...

Raleigh: Anything else?

Sydnee: And I've often thought of getting the tattoo, getting the phrase the, um... "Life isn't fair, it's just fairer than death, that's all."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: I've thought about that tattoo.

Taylor: [laughs] I think that's a great tattoo! Uh, definitely not in a place where your patient might read it easily, um...

Raleigh: Sure! [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing]

Raleigh: Fair, for being a doctor!

Taylor: [laughing] 'Cause that is—[laughs harder]

Sydnee: It's—it's probably better than "prepare to die."

Taylor: Well, yeah, absolutely!

Raleigh: That's true! [laughs]

Taylor: There's that.

Sydnee: So, uh, I think—I think I have covered all of the things about *The Princess Bride* that are... important, for me to put on—in a podcast. [laughs] Is there anything else that we need to record for the sake of podcast history about *The Princess Bride*?

Raleigh: I mean, I'm sure you could keep going, but... I think—I think we've got all the basics.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: The essentials.

Taylor: I just, I do feel bad—now I’m having regrets, over insulting a fictional Buttercup’s, uh, intelligence.

Raleigh: We’re sorry! [laughs]

Taylor: That’s not, you know... Every—she has strengths!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Just... Yeah. That was—I came out hot there, and I regret it.
[laughs]

Sydney: No, it’s definitely—I mean, it’s definitely in the book that she’s supposed to be, like... I mean, like, ditzy.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydney: I mean like, that’s definitely—that’s—no. [laughs] You’re not—
[laughs] You’re not wrong!

Taylor: [laughing] I really—I—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Just, you know. I do, I like the character! I don’t want her to hear this, and then think—think badly about herself.

Sydney: No, I don’t think—I don’t think she would. It’s very funny, I mean, ‘cause it—‘cause it plays into the whole way that they actually declare their love for each other. Because she realizes—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydney: I won’t get into all how, but like it takes her a long time to realize

she loves farm-boy Westley. And when she does realize she loves farm-boy Westley, and she comes and like, confesses her love, in like, this big, rushed, confusing speech, uh, he shuts the door in her face. And she gets so upset, she goes running away and like falls over a rock.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And... [laughs] I mean—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: It's all a very funny scene!

Taylor: Well... [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] But...

Taylor: It's a very, it's a very... Usagi moment.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Which is, you know...

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: That's my favorite character, I have no problem with—with my ditzy princesses.

Sydnee: Yes. And she definitely is played that way, 'cause then... Then she is greatly relieved when he shows up to say...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "Okay, I do love you back. It's just, now I have to go to America to find my fortune." [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Well, that's how those things always happen.

Raleigh: [laughing]

Sydnee: That's the tough part, in a relationship. Uh, well thank you both for indulging me. Nothing makes me, uh, happier than getting to live in the world of *The Princess Bride*. Live in Florin, for just a little bit, so...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Thank you.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Uh Tey, what's up—

Sydnee: What's next?

Raleigh: What's up next? Yeah.

Taylor: Oh, right! Uh, so I—I guess I don't have something quite as—as heartwarming and fanciful up next, um... But I want to talk about *Daria*!

Raleigh: Ooh! I love *Daria*!

Sydnee: Yay!

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah! The MTV cartoon from the '90s, uh... [laughs] Not voiced by Janeane Garofalo, though everybody thought that for some reason.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Uh, so yeah! So we'll talk about it. We got a... I find myself quoting "Sick Sad World" a lot these days, so why not just watch some *Daria*?
[laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah! Seems fitting.

Sydnee: I'm excited! I'm gonna—I'm gonna find that um, entire series DVD collection that somebody bought me at a comic book convention many years ago. [laughs]

Taylor: You—well, and that's better though, because the re-release, the official ones, all the music's changed, because MTV had all the rights to have all that music.

Sydnee: Oh!

Taylor: 'Cause there's so much iconic music in the original, but then the re-release, it's all changed out, because they didn't have the rights for the musics.

Sydnee: Oh, I didn't know.

Raleigh: Spoiler alert: I have all your DVDs!

Sydnee: You do?

Taylor: Yeah, Syd.

Raleigh: You brought them up here for me to watch a long time ago, and I kept them! [laughs]

Sydnee: Aww, man...

Raleigh: So...

Sydnee: Alright, well that sounds great.

Raleigh: But yeah, I'm excited.

Taylor: Alright, well...

Sydnee: Well, uh, thank you both. This has been fun. Thank you listeners!

Uh, I hope you're all hanging in there, and doing well, and... And really treat yourself to *The Princess Bride*, if you haven't before. It's—it is good. I know a friend has tried to talk you into watching it before, there's no way they haven't. And it's—it lives up to the hype, so... So do that.

Uh, thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to maximumfun.org for a lot of podcasts that you would love. Uh, thank you, everybody who tweets at us. @stillbuff, if you have anything, comments or anything. And you can email us too, at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. It works! Please email us. Um... and thank you to The Nouvellas, for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind".

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl!

Raleigh: I'm a tee—uh, still buffering! [laughs]

Taylor: You are! [laughing]

Raleigh: Dang it!

Taylor: And...

Sydnee: [laughing] And I—

Taylor: I... am... too.

Sydnee: ... am... too.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: One day, when I'm not actually a teenager anymore, I'll get it right. [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. As you wish!

Rileigh: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

--

[music plays]

Speaker 1: Welcome.

Speaker 2: Thank you.

Speaker 3: Thanks.

Speaker 1: These are real podcast listeners, not actors. What do you look for in a podcast?

Speaker 2: Reliability is big for me.

Speaker 4: Power.

Speaker 5: I'd say comfort.

Speaker 1: What do you think of this?

[crashing sounds]

Speaker 6: That's *Jordan, Jesse, Go*.

Speaker 2: *Jordan, Jesse, Go?*

Speaker 3: They came out of the floor?

Speaker 2: And down from the ceiling?

Speaker 3: That can't be safe.

Speaker 2: I'm upset. Can we go now?

Speaker 1: Soon.

[music plays]

Speaker 1: *Jordan, Jesse, Go:* A real podcast.

Maximumfun.org.

Comedy and culture.

Artist owned.

Listener supported.