

Sawbones 213: "Daria" (1997-2002)

Published May 24th, 2020

[Listen here at themcelroy.family](https://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: So, how you all doin'?' [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Hangin' in there!

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Tey is flexing. I don't know what's happening there.

Taylor: Well—

Rileigh: Ehh... [laughs]

Taylor: —I was stretching, flexing, it just seemed—a—a moment of power. You asked me a very difficult question to answer. I—I...

Sydnee: And so you flexed?

Taylor: Flexed—I flexed through it! [laughs] I flex through my emotions. That's what I do. [laughs]

Sydnee: You're like my villager Sparrow. Every time I see him he flexes at me.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: [gasps] I just got Sparrow!

Sydnee: Aw, did you?

Raleigh: I did.

Taylor: I just got Beau.

Raleigh: Oh, I love Beau!

Taylor: Beau is sweet. I like—I like that Beau is—I am learning that there's the character types, and that Beau and Zucker are the same character type, so they all just... craft weird things and tell me about bugs. I'm like, "You guys are great." [laughs]

Raleigh: It's true.

Sydney: I keep getting all the athletic ones. All mine are, like, out lifting together.

Taylor: The—the only sporty one I have is, uh—is, um, Hamlet. And, oh, Hamlet's the best. I—I built a whole gym on the beach for him, and I came out the other night and he was just sitting on the towel in, like, the—in the gym area that I built eating a donut. And I'm like, "Yeah, Hamlet." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: "[through laughter] You do your thing."

Sydney: I get it, I get it. Uh, so as we were getting set up for this, um, we were debating what sort of, uh—what do you call this? Like, teleconferencing platform to use.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: Is that what this would be considered?

Raleigh: Like a Zoom or a Skype.

Sydney: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And, uh—Teylor informed us that they were getting their—their Tinder set up. Well... [laughs] I was—[laughs]

Rileigh: So Tey, um...

Sydnee: Do you wanna share... [laughs]

Taylor: It was an autocorrect! I also—I—I have to say that, you know, you all were texting and saying, like, "I'm about to get set up." And what I was trying to text you, I'm—what I was trying to text you, I think, is I was getting set up. It autocorrected to Tinder. Uh, but I was also in bed actively.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Like, had—was not fully awake and fully lying to you when I was saying I was getting things set up. What I meant was, "I'm about to get out of bed and be awake." Uh... but I don't—I can't imagine—'cause I don't use—I—I won't lie, I have a dating app on my phone. But I—it's not Tinder. Uh...

Sydnee: Well that—I was wondering. What—what is it about your—I will grant that it was an autocorrect, more than likely. But what, uh... what—why does your phone autocorrect to Tinder, I guess is the...

Taylor: I don't know! I—

Sydnee: ... the great question.

Taylor: —I would—I guess I'd own up to it if I was—if I was a Tinder fiend, but that's been a... it's been many a year since I've stopped using that app. Um—

Sydnee: That's the swiping one, right?

Taylor: That is—yes. That is the swiping one. That is—

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: —I mean, they all kind of operate on that.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: A yes or a no. You just look at a picture of somebody and—I don't know. The one I have it's like, "Here's some pictures of people and some, like—they answer some weird questions or put up some quirky quotes."

I don't think it's any better at knowing if people are compatible, but it makes me feel like less of a horrible monster to look at a picture of somebody.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah, that's fair. [laughs]

Sydnee: I, uh—I—I have often wondered. I don't quite understand all the apps, because I have been married since before the existence of these apps, so...

Raleigh: What?!

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I know! That's how old I am. So... I'm pretty sure. I don't think there were dating apps before I was—

Raleigh: Yeah, I think you're probably right.

Sydnee: —married.

Raleigh: There weren't iPhones when you were married.

Sydnee: Or at least—yeah, that's true. Or at least in a, uh—in a... monogamous relationship. So.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Either way, this has not been part of my, uh, universe. But, like, is there an abundance of jokes on the theme of Swiper the Fox from *Dora the Explorer*, and Swiper no swiping... and Tinder? Is that already a body of comedy that exists? Does it need to be written?

Taylor: I'm trying to figure out those crossover audiences—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Sydnee: —'cause I guess people that grew up with Swiper the Fox are now... of the age to use Tinder. But, you know, I don't really know how much crossover power you have there with that—those jokes.

Sydnee: Hmm...

Raleigh: Yeah. I, uh—I grew up with Swiper the Fox, but I don't think he is readily in my, like, mind bank of jokes to pull out.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: I just feel like it's there somewhe—somewhere there is the joke about—I mean, it—Sw—Swiper the Fox, Swiper no swiping, it's so—it's all there!

Raleigh: [simultaneously] But why would you tell someone to not swipe?

Taylor: 'Cause you swipe either way, yes or no.

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: Yeah. You don't—you just don't understand the basics of how the app works.

Raleigh: "[through laughter] Get to my profile and never swipe again! Don't even swipe yes on me!"

Taylor: Just stare at this one person, yeah. Just, like—well, you—I don't—I can't swipe. I don't wanna... that's the rule I learned from Dora.

Raleigh: Sydnee—

Taylor: I don't know—I don't know. You workshop that, Syd.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: You come back with some more material than that. Just saying, "So... so Swiper the Fox. Is that anything? Is that something?" Is usually not how a structure for a joke works. I'm not a professional.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] That's usually not, I think. I've been to some comedy shows.

Uh, I—I will say, I'm kind of amazed, and I don't—I don't really know how—I don't have any feelings about this. But, like, the one dating app I have, I have gotten so many more, like, requests and, like, notes and things during quarantine.

And I don't—I don't really look at them, because even on my best of days, it's hard for me to, like... conceptualize trying to date, 'cause that's just not a thing that I'm very good at or very practiced at.

Uh, and then right now when it's just, like, nonstop anxiety and stress, I cannot imagine that. So I'm really, like... I'm really mystified by these people that are like, "Now is the time. Now is the time that I will try to establish a meaningful connection with another human."

It's like, "We cannot see each other. We—we cannot physically interact. Uh, we only have this interface." And I don't know. I'm—I admire it, because I—like, I have to be, like, at an amazing mental place to seek out companionship, and now is not that! [laughs]

Sydney: That's the, um—you're—you're asserting that you're still alive. You see that in disaster movies all the time.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Oh, is that—that's what that is? [laughs]

Raleigh: "I'm still here!"

Sydney: "I'm still here." Usually—usually it leads to people boinking, but... [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Oh, okay. I was—yeah, I—

Rileigh: Why—

Taylor: —I guess—

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm just saying!

Rileigh: Hey, Syd?

Taylor: That's the worst word you could—

Rileigh: That's the *worst* word.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It is?

Rileigh: Yeah! I think it—

Sydnee: That's the worst one?

Rileigh: —we've just decided it is.

Taylor: Something about it was really... o—offensive to me. I don't know why.
[laughs]

Rileigh: Like, the w—the words we could use on this podcast, that is the worst one I think you could use.

Sydnee: You—you kids today say smashing, right?

Rileigh: Yeah, but that's slightly better, because then I can think of it in, like, the, um... like, sometimes in movies, like, the British slang—like in *The Wild Thornberries*, when he says something's smashing. That means it's, like, great.

Sydnee: Well, that's how I always think of smashing. "[British accent] This is smashing!"

Rileigh: Hm. That's a—

Sydnee: Not—

Rileigh: —that's how I prefer to think about it.

Sydnee: —not, you know.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I don't wanna think—I don't wanna think about, like, Dad Thornberry in the—in any sort of way linked to a sexual term, though.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] Well, I didn't—okay. [snorts]

Taylor: You drew—you—you built that bridge, not me! And I don't appreciate it. I meant the word! [laughs]

Taylor: I throw the word out, too. I don't want—Nigel Thornberry? No smashing.

Sydnee: [laughs] Ni—Nigel—Nigel Thornberry and smashing have been connected, and we've pulled *Dora the Explorer's* Swiper the Fox into Tinder.

Rileigh: Why are you slowly ruining my childhood?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: If this is what you want—there's a Reddit thread, or an AO3 story, fanfic out there for you. But I don't personally want to participate in it. It is not my [through laughter] particular line of interest, so I would like to opt out of this weird conversation!

Sydnee: I apologize for what we've done here today. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: I would like to take it all back, please. [laughs]

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: I'm sorry! I just thought there was something there.

Rileigh: Okay, Sydnee. Really quick, just rapid fire. If someone were asking you, "I just made a Tinder and I wanna make a Swiper the Fox joke in my bio," what—

what would you—any of our listeners who maybe have a dating app, what would you...

Taylor: Oh no...

Sydnee: Um...

Raleigh: ... would you tell 'em to put in their bio?

Sydnee: Uh... I... hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Come one, their—their future romantic happiness rests on this joke!

Sydnee: I don't know—I don't know how—I don't know what direction is the one that—that's the—the "yes" one.

Raleigh: Right—right is the "yes" one.

Taylor: Right, yeah.

Sydnee: Swipe right for "yes?"

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Okay. I feel so old! I just don't—

Raleigh: You're so old! [laughs]

Sydnee: —I've just been married a long time! Uh—[laughs] I'm gonna have to—uh, okay. How 'bout, um... you—uh...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm? It's already gonna be great, I can tell.

Sydnee: You can—[laughs] Even—even if you... *are* a fox... no. If you, uh—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —if you are—hold on. There's—there's something here with being a fox. Um...

Taylor: It's there, it's there.

Sydnee: Foxes feel free to swipe... dot dot dot... right.

Raleigh: [laughs] How many people do you think would make that connection between the fox being Swiper the Fox, from *Dora the Explorer*?

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I mean, me.

Taylor: I guess the right people.

Raleigh: The right people.

Taylor: You know? That's what you put in there to get the right people to respond to you.

Sydnee: That's a connection that's real.

Raleigh: Then you put below," Only swipe right if you get what I'm saying."
[laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I—I actually think that's a pretty... [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] And then—and then—

Taylor: [simultaneously] That's a pretty smart move.

Sydnee: —your Tinder profile has a puzzle!

Raleigh: [laughs loudly]

Taylor: You know, I... all—like, all joking aside, I do think that's the better way to construct a dating app, because I think it's so normal that you just try to—you put your best pictures up and you try to, like, quote your most intelligent, like, novels that you like and your—the interests that, like, at your best you're at.

Like, I need to, like... have somebody be like, "Well, here's the weird thing that I do late at night." Like, "Here's, like, the hangup that I have." Like, "Here's the food texture that I can't stand."

Like, I need to know all the weird stuff that's kind of uncomfortable about you. And then if your weird stuff fits with my weird stuff, then maybe that—'cause that's the stuff that ruins a relationship, or causes problems. Let's—let's lead with that. Let's lead with the weird, and then we'll—the good stuff will come. [laughs]

Rileigh: I want—I want that in form of a puzzle. So, basically I want a dating app where you create, like, your own personalized little escape room that is made of, like, all of your—your weird traits and secrets and hobbies, and the person, if they're interested in you, has to solve your little virtual escape room to match with you.

Taylor: That's—

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: —that's just dating. That's what that is.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I was gonna say, I've been on dates that have been—

Taylor: Going—going into each other's—[laughs]

Sydnee: —[laughs] escape rooms.

Taylor: Yes!

Rileigh: But the point of the escape room is to not escape then, I guess. It's just to live in the escape room forever. Sydnee, is that what marriage is?

Taylor: Yeah. Let's just look around at all the weird stuff and go, "Yeah, I could live with it." [laughs] "I can stay here."

Sydnee: It's important to get that—yeah, it's important to get that right out. I remember, like, on one of—it may have been our first date or second date.

Really early on, Justin was like, "I just want you to know, I hate the sound of a fork hitting teeth when someone's eating."

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: He got it out there!

Taylor: And then Sydnee never used a fork again!

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Only plastic.

Taylor: [crosstalk] to this day!

Sydnee: No, the evolution of a relationship is that first I was like, "Oh. Well, I guess that's good to know. That—okay. I mean, sure. I will attempt to not accidentally hit my teeth with a fork."

But eventually it evolved to me just, like, intentionally tapping the fork against my teeth going, "You're just gonna have to deal with it if you want me! This is part of the package." [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs] Oh, that's—you just have to break each other. Okay, I see. Alright. Cool.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I get it now.

Taylor: Yeah, so, dating. I'm not really looking for it right now. [laughs]

Sydnee: So what—what are you doing with your free time, then?

Taylor: I'm watching a lot of—a lot of, uh... cartoons. Uh, old and new. Uh, I—I—hey, I recently rewatched most of *Daria*.

Raleigh: Ohh.

Sydnee: Hey, there's our topic!

Taylor: There it is.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] There it is.

Sydnee: We found it.

Taylor: Yeah, I wanna talk about *Daria*.

Sydnee: We found it. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Uh... uh, it's great—

Raleigh: It was in the escape room.

Taylor: Yes. [laughs] It's in—it's definitely part of my escape room.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: Um... yeah. So, *Daria*, uh—it was—it was, what? It started in—

Sydnee: Raleigh!

Taylor: —oh.

Sydnee: Do you know what it was a spin off of? Before you tell her.

Raleigh: Um...

Taylor: Do you?

Sydnee: I didn't know if Rileigh would know this. I knew—I figured you were about to—to say that, and so I wanted to see if Rileigh—do you know what—it was a spin off of another cartoon.

Rileigh: I know it was. And I know that these characters were characters on another cartoon. But I could not tell you which one. I don't know.

Sydnee: Man, that's a real continental divide of—of generations here.

Rileigh: [laughs] And I'm not like—this is not a goof. I genuinely don't know.

Taylor: Uh—

Sydnee: Go for it, Tey. I just—I had to know. I had to know if she knew.

Taylor: Oh, it's alright. She—she first appeared—*Daria* was a character on *Beavis and Butthead*.

Rileigh: Ohhh.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Okay.

Taylor: And it was actually—she wasn't originally written in *Beavis and Butthead*. It was, like, the—the—the one of the creative directors, uh, thought that they should have a female—like, a—a smart female in *Beavis and Butthead*, and so she suggested to add a female in, and so they came up with *Daria*. She was, like, based on... like, one of the creator's smart girlfriend from high school. Like, you know.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And—yeah. And she was just, like, a side character to sort of serve as a contrast to how stupid *Beavis and Butthead* were. [laughs]

Rileigh: That makes sense.

Taylor: Yeah. But then, like, you know, people really liked her, and MTV was having a problem and, like, this is, you know, in the mid-90's where they didn't—they had—their audience was massively male.

They didn't have a lot of, like, women watching MTV, so they wanted to make a cartoon specifically to draw women to MTV. And so that's where they first envisioned the creation of *Daria* as, like, a spin off, as her own show.

Sydnee: Yeah, I can't say that *Beavis and Butthead* appealed to me a great deal.

Taylor: No...

Sydnee: I mean, I—I definitely did watch some because every—I felt like everybody was watching it. Um, but I—it just wasn't... I feel like Dad liked it more than we did.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I could believe that, yeah. I feel like he would have it on a lot. Um, well, he liked the—

Sydnee: Yeah. Like, he still quotes it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah... I mean, he liked the old music videos too, 'cause a lot of times—

Sydnee: That's true.

Taylor: —they would watch music videos that were from, you know, his taste, so.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. I—I think I actually—I think I went back and watched—or started watching *Beavis and Butthead* more in its reruns, 'cause it ended shortly after *Daria* began.

Uh, but... because of *Daria*, because I wanted to know where *Daria* came from. And she's—she's a very, like, a much less developed character on *Beavis and Butthead*. Given, you know, much less screen time, but.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But yeah. Uh, and I—and Mike—of course, Mike Judge, who's known for creating *Beavis and Butthead*, didn't really have anything to do with *Daria*. He just kind of said, "Yeah, you can use the character." Like, there was a whole other different creative team.

I mean, he's even, like, quoted as saying that he's only ever watched, like, two or three minutes of *Daria*, so I don't—he doesn't have, like, a lot of love for the show. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It has a—I mean, it has a distinctly different feel than any Mike Judge stuff, I feel like. You know? Like, you—you definitely see that it's a—and I don't mean that in terms of, like, quality, like better or worse. It's just—it's distinctly different. You can tell it's a different voice.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, I—I'll tell you, the hardest part for me about loving *Daria* as much as I always did—um, especially when I was younger, I connected with *Daria* a lot. I will say now as an adult, full disclosure, [holding back laughter] I connect with *Daria* much less than I used to.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I feel like I've evolved past that in some ways. But, um—but I used to connect with *Daria* very strongly, and the—the hazard of that is that you dress as *Daria* for Halloween a lot. And the real problem there is that everybody calls you Velma. Um...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Because—

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: —for some reason, Velma is, like—you dress as somebody who looks, like, serious and smart and wears orange, and everyone assumes you're Velma instantly in a way that I thought you would assume I was Daria.

Taylor: I feel like you—you put on the green jacket, and it's pretty iconic. Like, [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: You still get a lot of Velma. I—this is my experience. It may just be me, but anecdotally, no matter how hard you try to dress as Daria, somebody's gonna call you Velma at the party.

Taylor: I guess good to know. I—I would not make the mistake.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Just a PSA for everyone out there. Keep it in mind before you dress as Daria for your—your upcoming costume or Halloween party.

Taylor: I think—

Sydnee: And—and if you are at a party where you see somebody you think is Velma, stop and think. Is it Daria? [laughs]

Raleigh: Look at the shoes.

Taylor: Yeah. Or—I mean, every aspect. I think this is very—this is putting, like, Daria and Velma in a category that I don't, like—they are very different characters, and very iconic.

Raleigh: In short brown hair and glasses. [laughs]

Taylor: Ehh, but—but they're different glasses. They are different wigs.

Raleigh: True.

Taylor: They are different col—I—I don't—I wouldn't make the confusion. But, I mean, I don't know [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: Well, me neither!

Rileigh: Well, maybe this is more—Sydnee, have you thought about maybe it's more of a statement on, like, the quality of the costume that you were wearing—

Taylor: Yeah. How's your—

Rileigh: —and how accurate it was to the character? [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: No, it's—

Taylor: This is—this could be that.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's fair to say that I have always put very little effort [through laughter] into my costuming, so. That's fair.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Um...

Sydnee: Well, tell us what you love about *Daria*. Tell us—you—you start us off, 'cause we've all seen *Daria*, so.

Taylor: Uh, you know, I mean, *Daria's* great. I loved it in high school, just because—I mean, it—it makes a point of being about young women's lives. And, I mean, it's not just—there's obviously—there's focus on *Daria*. I personally was always much more of a fan of Jane, *Daria's* best friend who's, like—is a bit like—the thing about *Daria* that's, like, everybody loves—like, *Daria's* great, she's a great character because she's so... convinced of her worldview, but—I mean, she allows it to change but she, like, has a lot—she has a lot of confidence. To be like that kind of outcast loner, she's very strong in her beliefs about herself.

And, I mean, it's like she says in, like, one of the—I think it's the first episode. She says, "I don't have low self esteem. I just have low esteem for everybody else." [laughs] Like—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know? But, like, Jane was a little bit more, like—Jane had insecurities. Jane was a little bit less—like, less defined in her beliefs and her confidence and her identity, and so I related a bit more to that.

But it was just like—it, you know—as far as, like, the Bechdel test is concerned, this would pass with flying colors, because so much of it revolved around the issues that young people deal with, specifically young women deal with. Like—and just—you know. It was funny, but it also had a lot of heart to it.

Sydnee: I—you know, exactly what you talk about is why over time I grew to identify less with the character of Daria, is because the openness that Jane has—and, I mean, eventually Daria has more of, certainly.

But, like, the openness that you see in Jane, even from, like, the—from the beginning was something that I wanted to have more of, and the, like, um, allowance to let other people be... [laughs quietly] whatever they are.

That—which Daria does not. Daria has very little tolerance for the idea, initially, that, like, you know, somebody like Kevin or Brittany could just be fine being them, you know? It—you—and I—I, as a teenager, probably would have echoed those sentiments.

Like, "These—these people are not going to have the same quality of life I'm going to have, because, you know, they value the wrong things. They value popularity and, like, being trendy and, you know, just going with the crowd. And because of that, they won't be as successful as a human as I know I'm going to be."

So, like, I really connected to that kind of arrogance about my worldview, that I certainly do not feel now, and I am not defending. But, um—but I think that it—it always made Jane, as I got older, a more relatable character.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: That reminds me of the episode of *30 Rock*, like, where Liz goes back to her high school and reunion and realizes, like, oh no, she wasn't just the nerd that, like, was smart and better than everyone. Like, everyone thought she was, like, outwardly arrogant and annoying about how smart she was. I kind of get that same vibe at, like, what you're talking about. But—

Taylor: Well, that—'cause that is one—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: —as far as, like, you know, when you get, like, the cliché high school setup and there's always, like, you know, the jocks, the cheerleaders are, like, mean bullies, and then the alternative kids are, like, you know, the sort of heroes of the—the structure.

Daria didn't have that. Like, it humanized every type of character. And, I mean, maybe it even—I think they did a bit more work for the female characters. Like, Brittany actually—you know, like, Brittany was the dumb cheerleader. But you actually see the, you know, like how she gets invested in, like—in, like, learning her lines for, like, you know, a theater performance. Or, like, takes things seriously, or has the ability to kind of, like, be a focused person even though she's usually just thrown off as a joke.

I mean, characters like Jodie which was just like—had so many levels of, like, cultural awareness and, like, what it's like to be the only Black person in, like, a predominately white school.

Like, there were narratives there in the side characters that nobody was just, "This is that—this is the perfection—or this is the, you know, prom queen, this is cheerleader, this is the football player."

And they also didn't—they weren't cruel to each other. Like, there were—there were moments where they wouldn't get along, but it wasn't that cliché high school, like, "Oh, these are the bullies and the cool kids, and these are the losers."

Like, everybody interacted and had a certain amount of respect and awareness for each other, which I think is closer to real high school.

Raleigh: Yeah, for sure.

Sydnee: I think—I think that's very true. Um, before we get into—'cause I think what you just hit on is—is a really interesting point about, like, the way the show talked about all the characters in relation to the way *Daria* initially viewed the characters through her eyes. But before we go down that road...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Uh, it is time. It is the time on *Still Buffering* when I tell you both about my pants.

Raleigh: Oh, good.

Taylor: Oh, I love that.

Raleigh: My favorite segment.

Sydnee: I love this time. And all you listeners at home can hear about my pants. Uh, why?

Raleigh: Are they the pants you currently are wearing?

Sydnee: Uhh, yes. Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants. Because they are perfect for working and feeling comfortable. It is—it is the time many of us are doing work from home, if we are able to. And you still, on those, um, teleconferencing apps... wanna look professional.

You wanna look like you're taking the time to—to care about your appearance and—and show up for the work that you're doing. But at the same time, you want to be comfortable.

And you can't—you just can't wear sweatpants on a professional Zoom call, unless you just... keep it the neck up. But then you're not gonna feel like you're doin' your work day, you know? You wanna feel like you're in job mode.

Raleigh: From head to toe.

Sydnee: You wanna feel like a professional from head to toe, H to T. And Betabrand dress pant yoga pants will give you that experience.

I have been wearing them and using them, uh, since long before we started doing ads for Betabrand on the show, because a bunch of other doctor moms suggested them to me and said these are really comfortable, great work pants. They are dress pants, but they feel like yoga pants.

So they're great for, like—in the job I do, I'm on my feet a lot. I'm walking around a lot. Plus I'm, like, examining patients, and so I might have to, like, get down on my knees to check something out or whatever, and I can—I can feel like they're really comfortable, functional—they're just like workout gear in that way, but they're dress pants, so I still look professional and they're wrinkle resistant, and they've got stretch knit fabric and, um, even if you're workin' a really long day, you're gonna feel great in your dress pants all day, because of Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: So, if our listeners want to take this opportunity to get some, what should they do, Raleigh?

Raleigh: Well, right now our listeners can get 25% off their first order when they go to betabrand.com/buffering. That's 25% off your first order for a limited time at betabrand.com/buffering. You can go find out why all of Betabrand's fans are ditching typical work pants for their dress pant yoga pants at betabrand.com/buffering for 25% off.

[pauses]

Taylor: Well—

Sydnee: Tey, we have a Jumbotron!

Taylor: Yes, we do! Uh, we have a Jumbotron. And this Jumbotron is for Joe, AKA Crow, AKA Crowseph. Got some good names.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Uh, yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: I like that one. I like Crowseph.

Taylor: Crowseph. [laughs] That's a good name. Uh, this is from Sarah. And Sarah says:

"Hey there, Joe. Yes, you! The tall, handsome one. It's me, Sarah! Your quarantine pal and wife of 8 years."

Sydnee: Aww...

Taylor: "I know we had plans for a romantic getaway and time away from our wild child, but instead we can get away to our home, safe from the outside world. I love you and there's nobody I'd rather be isolating with. Hopefully hearing "Happy Anniversary" from your favorite sisters will brighten your day. Thank you, Smirl sisters!" Thank—thank us. Thank me. You and—yeah.

Sydnee: Oh. Thank us.

Raleigh: Aww. Thank us.

Taylor: Sorry, that sounded weird. Here we go. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Thank you—thank you for thanking us. [laughs]

Sydnee: You're welcome. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, happy anniversary, Crowseph and Sarah! [laughs]

Sydnee: Aww, that's wonderful. That actually—this may just be—this was a lovely message, and I'm sure that was part of it. But it may also be the pandemic. But either way, I got a little choked up as you were reading that.

Taylor: [laughs] It was very sweet.

Raleigh: Oh, Syd. [laughs]

Sydnee: That lovely sentiment. It was—I know! [laughs] It is very sweet. Well, Joe, Sarah, I hope you have a wonderful anniversary.

Raleigh: Yeah, congratulations.

Sydnee: Uh, Sarah—thank—thank you for letting us, uh, share in your joy. Um, that's wonderful. You guys stay safe.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, and we're gonna talk more about *Daria*.

Taylor: Alright.

Raleigh: What?!

Sydnee: I think—I think that's funny. Uh, Tey, I started to rewatch it with Charlie, and so I started from the beginning. Um, and even from the first episode, it's funny because, uh, at the moment—in the first episode, Daria and Quinn start—Quinn's little sister—Quinn is Daria's little sister, if you're not familiar with the show. And Quinn, by the way, um... I talk about Charlie a lot, and so this may give you some insight into Quinn. Charlie instantly went, "That's me."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. I can see that.

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: She said, "That's the one that's, like, cheerful. And... likes school."
[laughs]

Raleigh: Well. [laughs]

Sydnee: And I said, "Yes, sure. That's a nice way to describe her. Cheerful and likes school."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That's fair.

Sydnee: Um, but she said—but Daria has to take a self esteem class because of how poorly she does on some sort of psychological profile of her. Uh, and she meets Jane, and then the two of them graduate their self esteem class.

And it—and it's funny, because they're having to give a speech before the school, and you see this moment where, like, Daria wants them to do this thing that's going to be kind of, like, cynical and, like—you know?

I mean, like, she's—she's—she's kind of driving this. Like, "We're gonna stand up and kind of sort of make fun of the whole thing."

And Jane is doing it, and then she—you see her look at Daria, who's, like, you know—like, getting her.. "Come on, do the—" you know?

I mean, there's just this exchange between the two of 'em, and it really shows from the jump, like, Jane is a little more sensitive and invested in, like, positive changes, you know? Like, the—the idea that they're out there. And Daria is very much driving this more sort of sarcastic worldview.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it's funny because I feel like the show continues throughout to push against the way that if you just saw the world from Daria's perspective, especially in the early seasons, to push against that idea.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I feel like the show challenges the character Daria. Um, and you get both the world through her eyes and the messages from her, and then the—the other views where they're calling her, like, certainty into question.

And I think it's so complex and interesting and cool for a cartoon that was aimed at younger people to be doing—about high school, which could just have all these, like, really cliché trope kind of things—it's just so interesting and cool that they're doing it all.

And it's—I don't know. It's very nuanced. I was watching it thinking, like, "I know Charlie's not getting all this." [laughs] But it's so nuanced and interesting and cool to watch.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, that's—one of the episodes that I really liked was, uh, "See Jane Run." And it's kind of along the same lines. It's exactly that, because Jane joins the track team, kind of to prove to one of her teachers who says that all of her, you know, brothers and sisters are kind of deadbeats.

Like, Jane wants to prove that she can do something. And she's really good at track, and Daria has to kind of—you know, Daria at first is very cynical about, like, "Oh. Like, now you—" you know?

'Cause this is like, "This is my best friend, and this is the kind of people we are. But now you're athletic, and that doesn't fit."

And Daria has to readjust to the fact that this is something that Jane's good at and is, like, you know, part—becoming part of her identity. Ultimately she, you know—a part of the story is also that, you know, student athletes get out of grades easier. And there's that kind of underlining of this corruption in the episode, too.

But at the core it was that idea about how we identify ourselves and we identify with our friends, and sometimes that can lead to really restrictive relationships, you know? Like, you can't change, 'cause if you change, that changes me. And I thought that that's—yeah. Like, that's really smart, and kind of next level, for a show that did—it didn't have to try that hard. It just did. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: I mean, it's very—

Sydnee: And they—

Raleigh: Go ahead.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Oh, go ahead.

Raleigh: Oh no. Oh no. This is like when two people run into each other in a hallway and they both go the same direction.

Taylor: Go, Raleigh! You're already talkin'.

Raleigh: Okay. Um, I—I think it's very self aware, because obviously the main character is supposed to be Daria, but she's not the main character in the sense that it's, like, everything she does is the ideal way to do things, and everyone

else around her is just, like, messing up, but she's the one good person that we're supposed to focus on, and this is how you should be in high school.

Um, it's a lot more like, "Yeah, she's who we're focusing on, but also, here are her flaws, and here's where she is kind of close minded and kind of, like, narrow minded, in a sense, where she thinks her way is the best way and isn't open to other things, but really is just as much that way as the athletes or popular people that she thinks are bad, just in opposite ways."

Which I do think—it's like Teylor said earlier. It's a lot more realistic of high school. It's not, like, commercialized high school.

Sydnee: No, you're—you're right, and, you know, I think Jodie specifically provides a nice foil to her, in the sense that—here is somebody who is, uh, just as smart, as far as we can—you know, as far as the narrative of the show—just as smart and capable and confident and, um, also gets—like, she gets it.

She understands why Daria reacts to other people the way she does. Like, yes, that is ridiculous, or yes, that is offensive or that is insulting, or this whole thing is ridiculous.

The whole high school thing that, you know, I don't buy into it either. But I also have goals and plans and places I wanna go in life, and I don't wanna spend my whole life just complaining about things, so I'll be in the clubs, and I'll—I'll, you know, be in student government, and I'll take these different responsibilities, and I'll get the grades, and I will play the part to some extent.

Like, I'm not gonna sell out. I'm not gonna be somebody I'm not. But I also am not gonna spend all my time judging other people and making a ton of, like—making that my whole identity. My identity is, I have places to go and things to do, and I'm gettin' there, and I know that if I play those games, I'll get all the good recommendations, I'll get into a good college, I'll get the scholarships, and I have a future.

And Daria's outlook is not conducive to that, necessarily. I mean, we know that that's true, that you do have to kind of do that, to get where you're going. And she is so invested in being, like, the counterculture, that there's very little else—there's very little room for anything else.

Rileigh: Yeah. It's like the difference between basing your personality off of, like, who you are, and who are not compared to everyone else.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's true.

Rileigh: It's like Daria very much just wants to be, like, what everyone else is not, instead of, like, who she is? But not entirely. I mean, I'm not trying to say that she's, like, a bad character. Obviously she's not. But just in that way that I think a lot of people are in high school.

Taylor: Well, I—I think it—but with Jodie, too, there's that extra layer. And I think it's—for a show that was made in the 90's, the fact that it didn't shy away from this, is that one of the things that Jodie struggles with is that because she's a minority in a predominately white school, she feels she has to be that representation.

She has to be incredibly high achieving and, like, you know, an ideal student, and that's something that she grapples with in the show, is sort of the... it kind of works on two levels, 'cause being sort of treated like a token, in an animated TV show where she is one of the few characters of color.

So, you know, that self awareness that the show had to both recognize what it had in its own structure, but also, like, you know, the—giving that depth to Jodie, like, I thought was just—you know, made her one of the most fascinating characters in the cast. And even—I mean, even the fact that her and Daria were so similar, but they weren't better friends. And, like, well, [through laughter] you know, why was that?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, I don't—and I don't remember—it's been too long since I've watched the entire series, and I haven't rewatched the whole thing again recently. But do they ever address that as, like, it is an issue of privilege there?

Do they ever... I mean, is that ever said? Because, like, you could definitely infer that from—from the idea that, like, Daria still—I mean, I think if you asked the character Daria, "Do you believe you will still be able to be successful and get into a college, even kind of acting this, like—even doing this disaffected youth thing?"

"Yes." I am not—you know, I don't think that's called into question. And that that—that does speak of privilege, even if it's not said.

Taylor: Well, and I mean, even, like, they both apply to—'cause I rewatched—the show ended with a movie. Uh, that sort of operates as the sixth season called "Is It College Yet?"

And, uh, Daria and Jodie both apply to, like, super high end—I guess it's like a stand in for, like, a Yale or something. Um, and Jodie gets in it, Daria gets wait listed.

Uh, but, you know, Daria also has, like, the—the rich connected boyfriend who's willing to pull strings to get her in. Like, he only gets in because he has connection and all of that, and I think it's a—it's a very powerful story line, where Jodie gets into that school, but she also gets into what the show calls Turner, which is supposed to sort of be, like, a historical African-American college.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And—and that she ultimately decides that that's where she wants to go, that she doesn't want to go to the super elite school, because she wants to be—she wants to be around people like her, that she wants that experience. And I think that, you know—

Sydnee: Of going to a historically Black college. That makes sense.

Taylor: Yeah. And I think that, you know, that she says, like, she'll make her own way. That ultimately, like, she's going to be successful, that she'll—she'll do something great with her life, and that she doesn't have to have that, you know—that high end, or super duper elite, like, college stamp of approval on her resume.

Sydnee: Or—or the idea that, like, "I am getting every bit as quality of an education, and it *is* just as high end."

You know? It just isn't—like, it's on—it's on real terms and not, like, the fake way we tend to rate these kinds of things.

Taylor: Exactly.

Sydnee: You know? Like, other people don't get to dictate what the best education is. We know, you know, that there are other schools. 'Cause I think that's part of what they're challenging, too, which is very true.

Like, you don't... nothing against any certain school, but you don't have to attend a certain college to get a good education. There are lots of places, college and outside of college, where you can get an excellent education to do the things you want to do in life, you know?

Taylor: Well, and they even, like, have that—I think it's a really smart scene where it's her—her father is the one that's really encouraging her to go to—Cromwell is the fancy place. And, uh—and he graduated from Turner. And she's like, "Look at you. Like, you're a massive success, and that's where you came from."

Like, it's almost like it's also him trying to give his daughter better, saying, "You can have better." And she's like, "But this is what I want. Like, and it's not better to me. Better to me is Turner, is the school that I want to go to."

Which I just—yeah. I think that, you know, for—for a show that on the surface is just about, you know, a misanthropic, like, alt white girl, they—they did some justice to the tertiary characters that I think was, you know—was maybe more powerful—definitely more powerful than if it had just been about Daria being Daria, being cynical.

Um, and I like—do you remember the episode, uh—it's "The Misery Chick"? I think it's the season finale of the first or second season?

[pauses]

Sydnee: Which is that?

Taylor: 'Cause that's one of the episodes that really stuck with me as far as just, you know, kind of defined it as something that was more than just... just a funny show about teenagers.

Uh, it's the one where there's this, like, high school—a former quarterback that comes back and he's gonna speak at Lawndale, and he's a big jerk to everybody.

He, like, you know, is gross, like, sexually, to several of the women. He makes fun of Daria and Jane. He just is horribly dismissive and rude. And then he's, like, killed in freak accident. Like, the goalpost that's being dedicated to him falls on him and he dies.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And everybody starts seeking out Daria to talk about death, because she's the one that gets it. And Daria gets angry that people are... coming to her for, like, reflections on death, because they think that she's the one to talk to.

And, like, opposite that, Jane starts avoiding Daria because she doesn't wanna talk—like, she—you know. The—the surmise is—is that Daria thinks, and so people are seeking out somebody that's—that thinks, because they don't wanna think. They want someone to tell them what to think.

And Jane recognizes all this and says, "Great, but I don't wanna think about this, 'cause it's a bad thing. I just don't wanna think. And, you know, you're the one that thinks."

And it's just, like—it was such a—a deep thought about, like, if somebody terrible—somebody bad dies, but death is sad; and grappling with that issue, which is a very complex, like, thought, for what the show was.

I remember that—I remember that episode affecting me, like, as a teenager watching that and being like, "Wow. Like, that's some heavy stuff."

Sydnee: I remember that too, now that you—now that you describe it. I remember that episode, 'cause it—and it does—again, it, like, challenges the certainty of Daria's view of the world.

That, like, you know, there are good people and bad people. It is a very black and white... way of saying, like, "You're good or you're bad, and if you're bad and bad things happen to you, then... " you know. That's kind of... that's kind of it.

Um, and it definitely challenges that and, like—"Yeah, but if you're a good person, if you're a caring person, how are you okay with—with that?" You know? How do you reconcile that notion? Which is hard.

I feel like that's something I struggle with still. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, and I think that same, like—you know, in the—one of the big events later on in the show is when Daria more or less steals Jane's boyfriend.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: And I thought it was a—

Raleigh: I do remember that, yeah.

Taylor: —I think that—that really, like, also that swerve to just show that not only is the show saying, like, "Oh, Daria's cool. Like, listen to Daria." They make Daria, the main character, also a bit of the villain in a massive arc.

And it's, like, really—I mean, you know. It's very... it was very—I remember it being upsetting to me. [laughs] Like, "I don't like this! I don't like that Daria did this to Jane! I'm mad at a cartoon character!"

Raleigh: Yeah. Well, isn't it like she doesn't like that Jane has a boyfriend and she doesn't really get along with him, but then they start getting along and they start getting closer, and then they kiss, and then they end up dating?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: So, I mean, it's not even like they both were interested in this guy. It's like, "Daria, here's my boyfriend."

"Oh, I don't like that you have a boyfriend. But also, I'm going to kiss your boyfriend." [laughs]

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And—and they—and this is all, like—they—it—they're chill after that, right? Like, she continues to date Tom, and— isn't that his name? Tom?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And—and then, um, they're still friends, if I remember.

Taylor: Yeah. I mean, they kind of—they make up in the—there is another movie that happens between the fourth and fifth—*Is It Fall Yet?* which kind of, you know, shows them.

But—but, I mean, I think really more than anything it shows, once again, the kind of—that—that flexibility that Jane has to kind of parse out, like, "Well, I wasn't... the relationship was already kind of ending between me and Tom. We weren't at a good place, and I want Daria to be happy. And—" like, it's kind of like—to see that character go through—I think in another teen drama it would've been a whole big, like... thing, you know?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But instead, like, the maturity that it—it called on from, like, all characters involved, especially Jane, I thought was really cool. To just show that she can reason out, like, "This is a—" kind of the same thought. Like, "This is a bad thing that happened, but this doesn't make Daria a bad person." And...

Sydnee: Which—which is so interesting, because if you flip it, Daria never talks to her again.

Taylor: I—I would agree with that.

Sydnee: Like, I—I would—that would be my guess. I mean, I obviously did not create any of these character, [through laughter] so I don't—I can't speak for them. But my impression is that if you flip it around—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] In Sydnee's fanfic.

Sydnee: —[laughs] in my fanfic. No, I mean—and again, like, it's another way that it challenges Daria's worldview. And for me, that's meaningful because it is a—it is a flaw that I fight in myself every day. It was something I recognized pretty quickly. Like, that kind of unforgiving, like, "Hurt me once, you're gone forever, I can't—you know, I don't want you in my life. You're a bad person now."

That, I—I connected to that very strongly when I was younger, and it's something that as I get older I don't embrace. I try to, like, work out. [laughs] I work through, I try to change about myself. Um, but when I was younger I definitely remember thinking, like, "Yeah. [laughs quietly] I get it."

Taylor: Well—

Sydnee: "I'm good at holding grudges, and I celebrate it!" [laughs]

Taylor: —you know, that same kind of—I think that, like—another episode that makes me think, the one where Quinn writes poetry. Which I actually realized when I rewatched it, Quinn—it's not the only time Quinn writes poetry. It's kind of a one-off joke early on in, like, season one, where she writes a poem. But there's this idea that, "Well, Daria's the smart one. Quinn's the pretty popular one. Quinn can't be smart. Quinn can't have depth. Quinn can't be, like, you know, of—of any intellectual value."

And that that is something that really offends Daria, is that if Quinn is getting recognition as a smart person or as a thoughtful person, then what am I? Like, kind of have to, you know, like, parse that out as well. Like, I—this is my sister. I should want her to have depth. I should want her to have success in a department that's not just, you know, about her looks. But I also—that—that messes with my identity.

I just—it's just—it's—those sort of moments are just so smart, because I think that's exactly what it does is it takes—it drew in a lot of people that went, like, "Yeah, that's me."

And instead of just repeatedly confirming your worldview, it goes, "Oh, but you know what? Actually, athletes are people too, and the pretty girl can be smart, and, you know, sometimes you'll make mistakes and you have to just hope people forgive you. And, you know, you don't get to justify them."

Like, it really put Daria through the wringer. And, I think, by proxy made the audience kind of hopefully be more open minded? I think certainly for me, as somebody that consumed it.

Sydnee: I—I think that's definitely true. I feel like it... by embracing Daria so completely initially, like, I had to face the same things she faced. Like, if I was going to accept that I was like her, I had to—when her flaws were so clearly

shown by contrast to other characters and things on the show, I had to embrace those flaws and decide, like, "I don't want—like, do—if I—if I'm being viewed that way, would I feel good about it?"

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: "Aw, I don't wanna—I don't wanna be seen like that. Like, I wouldn't wanna be that person in that situation. Oof!"

I mean, like, it really did—it really put you through your paces if you connected with that character like that. I mean, it really made you... and I think a lot—I mean, it's very much of a generation, too. A lot of us felt that way... at that period of—of time. [laughs quietly] Like, in the—in the 90's. That whole, like, Gen X, like... nihilism, whatever.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Who cares? Everything's dumb. [laughs quietly] Like, that just—I mean, that was—that was, like, a moment, and I... felt like a member of that moment. And that really, like, challenged me to say, "Is... this isn't really cool, though, is it? Like, this does nothing. This doesn't help. I'm not helping. [laughs] I wanna help!"

Taylor: Well, and I—yeah. I—I think that's really... I don't know. I'm trying to think of, like, modern parallels. For some reason I... like, I'm a fan of *Rick and Morty*, but I don't really—I—you know, a lot of people have a problem with it because they think the show—it's like, "Well, Rick's a terrible person, and nobody gets that."

But I kind of feel like that's the point of the show. It's like, if you identify with this character, but then the show makes a big point of showing you that he's deeply flawed and that he's very damaging to the people around him and that, like, you know, he's not... it's that—that subtle line where it's like—you identify with the character but you can't, like, elevate their actions and their opinions.

Like, you have to use it as a way to... interact with the audience and, like, undermine that character's weakness. I don't know. And I think, like, maybe in the case of *Rick and Morty* they don't do it enough with Rick. They don't push it far enough to kind of throw the light on and be like, "Yo, he's wrong!"

But *Daria* very unabashedly did that.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. It's—it's the classic anti—antihero.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And... I mean, there's—it plays an important place—like, an important role, if you're willing to engage with it. But there's—but it involves a lot more work, I think, on the part of the viewer. It challenges you in ways that sometimes you're not ready for in art. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Well, 'cause so much about high school is figuring out who you are. But if you're the kind of person who decides who you are, "This is who I am and this is what I believe," like, that can be just as damaging as if you're somebody that has no identity and just, you know, does everything to make people happy or to be agreeable and liked and popular.

Like, the opposite side of that, the opposite reaction to that were people, I think, more like us who were like, "No, I'm gonna be myself! And this is who I am, and I know it, and I'm right!"

And it, like... you know. That's... that's just as—you know, it's the other side of the same coin of being just everything to everybody, to be popular and loved. And I think it's just as important to kind of check yourself on that side of it.

Sydnee: Uh, Charlie says she learned in school that it's called either having a bubblegum brain or a brick brain.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Wow! Okay!

Taylor: Whoa!

Sydnee: They had—they read some sort of book about the importance of having a bubblegum brain. Which means that, like, it can change and stretch and grow, and it's, um, open to new things and ideas and to, like, learning. Whereas a brick

brain is closed off to learning new things, and to, like, new ideas and that kind of thing. And she says it's important.

Rileigh: Wow, Charlie's getting deep in Pre-K.

Sydnee: I know! I thought this was a really interesting... point. 'Cause she asked me, "Do you have a bubblegum brain or a brick brain?"

And I was like, "What?"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Neither?

Sydnee: "As—as a doctor, I must tell you. The brain is—is not made of bubblegum or brick. [laughs]"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: But then she explained it to me and I was like, "Well, I hope I have a bubblegum br—I *think* I have a bubblegum brain. I try!"

Rileigh: Um... I thought I would share, as we're nearing the end here—I was looking up this show after I had rewatched it, before we discussed it. And I saw that last summer, MTV announced they'd be doing a spin off series called *Jodie*, all about Jodie.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah!

Rileigh: That Tracee Ellis Ross would be starring in and executive producing. I haven't read anything about it since then, and obviously things have been shut down recently because of the current state of the world. But... there's that.

Taylor: I think—I think that's be—there was—there was originally—uh, a spin off originally planned of *Daria* back when it ended was gonna be based around Mystik Spiral. Uh, Jane's brother Trent's band. Like, moving to Brooklyn and living in a

studio. I, uh—as fun as that would've been, I think I would much prefer a spin off with Jodie.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: So I think that's...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I agree, I agree. And I—I shipped, uh, Daria and Trent pretty hard back in the day.

Taylor: You did! I remember that! [laughs]

Sydnee: I did. I did. I shipped them pretty hard. And I still, even with that, would much prefer a Jodie show.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think that would be—man, I hope they do that. I hope they follow through with that, 'cause I'd watch the heck out of that.

Taylor: There was an interview with one of the show runners talking about—and it's not canon, but where she saw the characters now, where they would be in their—'cause they'd be, like, pushin' 40—I think they—well... yeah. They'd be, like, around their late 30's, early 40's.

Sydnee: They'd be early 40's, 'cause they graduated... before I did.

Taylor: The show started in '95. It ran for—what? Five seasons? So yeah. So... few—few years older than you, yeah.

Sydnee: And I'm... yeah. I'm not 40 yet.

Rileigh: Yet.

Taylor: [laughs] But, uh, I liked—she said that... uh, I know she said that *Daria* would be, like—like, a col—a writer on, like, a late night comedy show or, like, you know, kind of like a...

Sydnee: A Tina Fey?

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I think it was sort of like—like, living in, like a—you know, a—with her cat in New York City. Like—[laughs] single but with a cat. Uh, that, you know, Jane would be living in SoHo with her—I think—I think she said an ar—uh, archaeologist husband or something like that, as an avant-garde artist.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like, you know. Quinn would be married with, like, three kids. But, like—like, a leader in her community. I don't know. It was just kind of cool to just see her kind of project, like, where she saw the characters leading these, you know, like... more—more... complex, like, thoughtful endings. I don't know. I just... that's—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I would like to think—I would like to see that. Like, if they—I don't know, like—I don't know if *Jodie's* gonna be set, like, in high school or college or, like, in current times, but I would love to see a check in on where everybody ended up.

Raleigh: Yeah, for sure.

Sydnee: That would be cool, yeah. I like that idea. Well, thank you, Tey.

Raleigh: Thanks, Tey.

Sydnee: That was fun and, uh, it was neat to show *Daria* to Charlie and see how excited she got about it. 'Cause, I mean, even the first episode, which I don't

think has a lot of jokes that are accessible for young children. [laughs] As soon as it ended she went, "I wanna watch another one!"

And I was like, "Really? Oh—excellent!" So.

Taylor: I will say—I mean, I don't—we didn't really talk about the art a lot, but the style of it is very iconic and just—it's nice to look at. The characters are so sharp and brightly colored and, like—I even remember this. Like, the kind of designs, the fashion, the way that they dress the characters. It's really—it's very 90's, but it's also very, like, pleasant to look at.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And the—the lasagna they eat at dinner every night looks so good.

Raleigh: Looks very good.

Taylor: Yeah! A lot of the food in that looks good. I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah... [laughs quietly] Uh, alright. So, what's up next week, Raleigh?

Raleigh: So, in honor of *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, just coming out this week that I'm already almost done with, which is the prequel to The Hunger Games series, I wanna talk about The Hunger Games. Um, I've read all the books multiple times, but there are movies that are... in most ways pretty close to the story, so. We'll—I'll talk about both, but we'll mostly talk about the movie and the book. So.

Sydnee: Awesome.

Taylor: Alright.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, I—I'm looking forward—I have—I have read the books and watched the movies. It's been a while. I'll have to refresh. I'll have to watch the movies again.

Raleigh: Yeah, not one to watch with Charlie.

Sydnee: No...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't think she's ready—

Raleigh: Not like *Daria*.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: —for... no... not ready for that. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Keep—keep—keep showin' her *Daria*. Or *She-Ra*! have her watch *She-Ra*.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I—uh, we watched the first season. We'll have to watch some more.

Taylor: I won't spoil anything, but it just ended and it's just so good.

Sydnee: We've been going back through *Peewee's Playhouse* for Cooper.

Taylor: Oh! [laughs]

Sydnee: So.

Taylor: Alright. [laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter] She loves it. I... I—

Taylor: I like how both of your kids have now been thoroughly exposed to—to that show.

Raleigh: To Peewee. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Very niche thing.

Sydnee: I don't—I don't—I have the weirdest children. Which is our fault. I—I accept it! I accept it. It's my fault. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: That was gonna happen.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Not even a fault. That's just science.

Sydnee: Uh, well, thank you both. This has been fun. I have enjoyed this. I hope, listeners, if you have not watched *Daria*—it was on Hulu? Is that where I found it?

Raleigh: I think that's where I watched.

Taylor: Yes, it's—it's all on Hulu.

Sydnee: Yeah. It's—it's worth it if you've never watched it before. It's a great show. Um, it's really—it's a really fun thing to watch, [holding back laughter] and apparently some five-year-olds may enjoy it.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, an occasional five-year-old. [laughs quietly] No, it's actually not really for kids. It's a grownup cartoon. But still. [laughs]

Taylor: It has some adult themes.

Sydnee: Yes, it has some adult themes, for sure. Um, thank you to Maximum Fun for hosting our show. You should go to Maximumfun.org, and there are lots of podcasts that you can enjoy there.

Uh, thank you, um—everybody who emails us! You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org if you have other things, comments, or just thoughts, or something you want to share that you think we should talk about. Uh, and you can tweet at us also, @stillbuff. 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.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays in the background]

Sydnee: We used to say "was," didn't we?

Taylor: But we are still—but we're still still buffering.

Sydnee: I know.

Rileigh: But you used to say "was" [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: Well, I know.

Taylor: [crosstalk] Yeah, 'cause we're not teenagers anymore, but we are still buffering.

Sydnee: I just—I get confused sometimes.

Taylor: I do too. I just kinda wait to hear the first sound that you make, and then I just go with it.

Sydnee: [weird noises]

Taylor: [weird noises] Just, like, babbling [unintelligible 57:19] over here.

Rileigh: "Too." [laughs]

Taylor: That's just—that's the only one that matters. [laughs]

[theme music plays]

Jesse: Hey, Max Funsters! It's Jesse Thorn. This week on my public radio interview show *Bullseye*, I'm talking with Tina Fey and Robert Carlock about creating *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *30 Rock*, and also just kind of why they're the best at everything.

Tina: There was a window of time when we would just go to awards things and pick up our prizes and party with the people from *Mad Men*.

Jesse: You can find *Bullseye* at Maximumfun.org, or wherever you listen to podcasts. Just search for *Bullseye with Jesse Thorn*.

Maximumfun.org.
Comedy and Culture.
Artist Owned.
Listener Supported.