

Still Buffering 218: "Adventure Time" (2010-2018)

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Uh, so, it is now, as we're recording this, it's July 8th. Uh, do you think that the fourth of July fireworks can end now? Please?

Taylor: Uh, I think they're just here now.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: It's—it's like—like plague and murder hornets. [through laughter] We just have... just fireworks. All the time.

Raleigh: Yeah, like how the—yeah, the cicadas just settle in for, what, years or months at a time or whatever, just for a summer. That's what we have.

Sydnee: I—it is—they started long before the fourth. Uh, and they persist. They were so loud last night, and very close to us in proximity.

Raleigh: They were very close.

Sydnee: I could kind of see them through the trees. I couldn't see them well, so I couldn't tell exactly where they were coming from, but I could kind of see them. Um, and here in West Virginia, I guess it's legal now to have the real ones?

Raleigh: Um, you know? I don't even know if it is, but I know it definitely wasn't, like, two years ago. But now, it seems like everyone has them, so... I have no idea.

Sydnee: Because it—on the fourth of July, it sounded like... like I—I felt like we were under attack.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: 'Cause there were so many different... explosions, coming from so many different directions.

Raleigh: Tey, I have to imagine it was even worse in New York.

Taylor: It—the fourth of July was just—I mean, it started at two PM, which I really don't understand what the joy of setting off fireworks when it's daylight. You can't see 'em. Especially those, like, nice ones that are... I mean, I don't know. That's, like, a hundred dollar fireworks show going on at, like, two PM.

But yeah, it started around two PM and it went on until about five AM? I'm pretty nocturnal, but, like... this past month it's just been, like, every night they start around eight or nine, and they go until two or three, and it just...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: It doesn't, uh—it doesn't—I don't know. It doesn't stop. And they're all—they're all cleaned up the next day but, like, it's a... it's a thin.

Raleigh: [shakily] Where do they go?! [laughs]

Taylor: I—I—well, like, you know, usually the people that set—like, it's just—it's weird. Uh, my personal vendetta against it is that there is a kitten, um, that was crying out front of my apartment. This was, like, a week ago, two weeks ago? And I was trying to lure it out, but people kept setting off fireworks.

Raleigh: Aww...

Taylor: And so it was hiding up inside this car, and it was, like, this little—a dirty little kitten that clearly was, like, not capable of taking care of itself, and I was desperately trying to save it. But there was no hope, because—this was, like, two o' clock in the morning. Like, I—it had woken me up 'cause I heard it crying outside my window.

Raleigh: Aww...

Taylor: But, uh, then started setting off fireworks again, so there was no hope of rescuing the car kitten.

Sydnee: I didn't realize, having never had dogs, uh, I didn't realize how much I hated fireworks until I had kids. I know people with dogs often cannot stand fireworks, uh, because they scare their dogs, and then we had kids, and I was like, "I understand now. [holding back laughter] I hate fireworks." 'Cause I want my kids to sleep at *some* point.

Taylor: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: And the fireworks prevent that. Um, also, they're, like, really dangerous? Have you ever thought about why we let... like, why—why can I have these things that explode?

Taylor: I... yeah.

Raleigh: Patriotism.

Taylor: That—that is... like, we choose to risk exploding our limbs off, to represent the fact that some people... were in dangerous war grounds? I don't know. I—I thought that roman candles were not a thing anymore. Like, I thought they just, like, fizzed?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I was legit, like, walking back from the park the other evening. I, like—maybe, like, eight. And all of the sudden, like, there's just a roman candle goes shooting by my head and I'm like, "What the heck?!" These kids

were just having a roman candle fight! Like, in—like, just up and down the sidewalk!

Sydnee: Just like the good ol' days.

Taylor: Yeah! I didn't know that those were back! I don't know.

Raleigh: Just like the one fourth of July memory I love to share of Griffin McElroy in my child-sized inner tube, when I was no more than five, with a roman candle taped to it.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Running around, shooting it everywhere.

Sydnee: Those were the ones that just fizzed. That was before—

Raleigh: Were they?

Sydnee: —they were. Because—

Raleigh: 'Cause was that the same year [holding back laughter] we almost caught your house on fire?

Sydnee: No. Those were the ones that just—'cause there was a long patch in West Virginia where you couldn't get the exploding ones, which was good. And—I mean, they're all bad, but now they're—they're worse.

But I guess, like any conversation into, like, should we really let everyone have these explosives? Has to lead into, like, "Well, what about guns?" And... America doesn't wanna have *that* conversation, ever. So... we get to have fireworks too, I guess.

Raleigh: I will say, we have—you have started teaching the next generation well, Sydnee. When Charlie was at our house on the fourth of July, of course, we didn't do any fireworks. We didn't have any.

But we were outside at night swimming with her, and we kept hearing the fireworks going off and seeing them on both sides of us, and it was just horrible. And Charlie just yelled into the void, "Why do these people have fireworks? Those are terrible! Don't they know we're not supposed to have fireworks this year?!" [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, we told her that... you know, when she's—when she's not behaving well, when she's, like, fighting with her sister and won't do what we ask her to do and all that, we don't reward her with, like, ice cream or a new toy. She has to *not* get those things, and maybe go to bed early or something. I don't know. We're not very good with punishments. But you get the idea.

Raleigh: You're not. [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, but we won't reward bad behavior.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And so if—right now, I don't understand [through laughter] why America gets fireworks.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: America gets—

Raleigh: Why does it get dessert? [laughs]

Sydnee: America does *not* get dessert. America gets sent to its room to think about what it did.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] And to come back when it wants to behave better.

Taylor: I agree.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, like, you know, to be real, like, every summer in New York, like, there's a lot of fireworks. A lot of illegal fireworks find their way here. That's—like, that's nothing new. Um, but the consistency and the frequency and the quality, that's just... I mean, 'cause I've had a lot of people that are like, "Oh, you're just—is this your first summer in New York?"

I'm like, "No, it's my 15th. Uh, it's—this is different." [through laughter] I love fireworks. Like, I'm the opposite. I love fireworks. I have been that—that, you know, person making not-great decisions, jumping over them, and shooting them at my friends, and letting my friends shoot them at me.

I am—I do not make good decisions. Uh—and, uh, even I am like, "Yeah, I'm tired. I never wanna see 'em again. They no longer spark joy." [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: There we go. [laughs] Mari Kondo told us to get rid of 'em.

Sydnee: I—I, much like Frankenstein, have always had a fear of fire. But, um—[laughs quietly]

Taylor: Alright?

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: And the Scarecrow from *The Wizard of Oz*. I am afraid of fire, um, but also, the combo of being a parent and a physician, don't love fireworks. Don't love 'em.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Would be fine if they went away. Um...

Taylor: Yeah, I don't know.

Sydnee: That—boy, I have now, this year, come out against parades and fireworks.

Taylor: Well, Syd, you—

Sydnee: I am—

Taylor: —you're not a—you're not a patriot. We know this.

Raleigh: You're not—yeah.

Sydnee: I'm a bummer is what I am!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: A total bummer! [laughs]

Raleigh: It's like how Dad used to say, every party has a pooper. [through laughter] That's why we invited you.

Sydnee: It's me!

Taylor: Aww...

Sydnee: I am the one who's like, "[nasally voice] Excuse me, I'd rather us not have a parade because of the crowds that will gather and the—"

Raleigh: You're not the only one. You're the smart one.

Taylor: I know. Everybody has now come around to your way of thinking. You were right all along. Now we all agree.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: All those summers when poor small Raleigh just wanted to have some fireworks and some sparklers and some fun, and Sydnee went on and on about the dangers. Now we're all Sydnee. [laughs]

Sydnee: Now everyone reali—everyone just hide in your home! [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Just stay inside.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Stay inside where it's safe. I've told you all along! Now you're finally listening!

Taylor: Think about what you did.

Sydnee: Think about what you did. Um, but... I don't know.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know what's *not* a bummer?

Raleigh: *Adventure Time!*

Taylor: Hey, there we go!

Raleigh: [laughs] Um, this is my—this is *my* week. *Mine.*

Sydnee: M—[laughs]

Raleigh: Everyone. Um—[laughs]

Sydnee: *My* week!

Raleigh: No. [laughs] Uh, I—

Taylor: Well, okay! Can—can you share it with the rest of us? 'Cause it's a three person conversation. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I guess. Whatever. I suppose.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] If it—hey, if this is your week, could you make it better than last week, or the week before, or the week before, or the week before that, or the week—[laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, I was gonna say. Real talk, Rileigh, do you—do you wanna claim any period of time in this? 'Cause I sure don't! None of these weeks are mine. I am not responsible for any time-space continuum that's happening. [laughs]

Rileigh: This is like our poor Mom at the beginning of the year.

Taylor: [laughs loudly]

Rileigh: She won't—she won't mind. She shared this on social media a few times. At the beginning of 2020, January 1st, she said, "This is the year of Mary. This is my year."

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: She had a big birthday coming up. She was like, "This is my year. I'm gonna make it about me. I'm gonna do things I love." We even, like, for her birthday, planned this big birthday trip where we all three were gonna be with her and be together, and...

Sydnee: We were gonna go hike? 'Cause she want—

Rileigh: Yeah, she loves hiking!

Sydnee: —she wanted to hike, we were gonna do it. [laughs]

Rileigh: We were gonna go outside and hike. And now every time something else happens we're just like, "Well, Mom, it's your year! You claimed it!"

Sydnee: The year of Mary! [laughs]

Rileigh: This is the year of Mary!

Taylor: Let's just—yeah. I don't... I don't think we could take another year of Mary. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] I don't think so either. I don't think Mary can take another year of Mary.

Taylor: Yeah, that's valid.

Raleigh: Sorry, Mom.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Anyways. [laughs]

Taylor: You—you can have a better year. Like, you can pick a different one—

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: —and you could get to the end of it and then just retroactively claim it. That's—that's a safer way.

Sydnee: Yeah, we'll let you have a take-back.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: This is—this is your take-back. Take back this year, and then you get another one.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: This is, uh... I think we all get a redo on this year. I think we just keep—

Raleigh: Gosh, I hope so.

Taylor: —just—just nobody has a birthday this year. Nobody gets older. Nobody has to, like, just—you know, next year's 2020 again. We pretend this never happened.

Sydnee: Yeah. Justin turns 40 this year, and I have no idea how I'm going to make that special right now, so.

Raleigh: I turn 20! This whole time we've done this show we've been talking about when I come to my end of teenage years. [through laughter] Who knew all this was gonna happen at the end of my teen—teenage years? This is what happens!

Taylor: I mean, your—[laughs] You *might* turn 20... I don't know!

Raleigh: Ohh!

Sydnee: [through laughter] Ohh, no!

Raleigh: Who knows? Time just might continue to cease to turn, and no one turns anything!

Taylor: I—yeah. There was, like, a video of a bunch of crows descending in a Wal-Mart parking lot and, like, gathering. I'm like, "Ah, well. At least... [through laughter] At least this is happening?! I don't know!"

Sydnee: That's right.

Raleigh: At least 2019 happened. At least we had that year.

Taylor: Like, I just felt this sense of relief, and I couldn't explain it! Like, "Well, at least the crows are here. That's good." [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. The bird carrying the shark. That made sense.

Taylor: Yeah!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Although—although Twitter informed me later, I believe it was a tuna.

Raleigh: Looked like a shark.

Sydnee: According—it looked like a shark, but Twitter consensus was that it was a tuna.

Taylor: Well, alright.

Raleigh: Um...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That doesn't make it any different.

Sydnee: I pref—in my brain, it's a shark.

Raleigh: [laughs] Uh, *Adventure Time*.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: It is a cartoon that was on, um, Cartoon Network, and it started in 2010. I think I probably started watching it around the time it came out, because I was very young when it first aired, and it didn't finish until 2018, so it was a pretty long-running cartoon series, but, um, I was *very*, very into it growing up.

It was, like, the first cartoon I remember watching from beginning to end, throughout a very long, significant period of my life. Um, and it's kinda—I don't know. It's one of those cartoons that is just kinda silly, in its character and its stories and its forms.

But also, looking back on it now, rewatching all of it, um, it had some—it had some good messages. It had some good moments. It was not all just silly candy people. And, um... stretchy dogs.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: So.

Sydnee: Well, why do you think it, in particular, meant so much to you?

Raleigh: Um... I—you know, I tried to think about this, and first, it was a cartoon that I remember I started watching with my childhood best friend at the time, so it was something that whenever we were together, that was what we would turn on.

Even if it was—I think that was around the time that, like, DVR and on-demand things on TV started being things you could use, so we would always, like, record them or do on-demand and watch them together for the first time.

Sydnee: Would you TiVo them?

Raleigh: TiVo them, I guess. I don't know.

Sydnee: Do you remember TiVo?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Like, the original DVR, right?

Sydnee: We still say, um... yeah, the ori—like, the original DVR. We still say, uh, "bloop," because when you would fast-forward on TiVo, it would make a little bloop bloop sound.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And so we will still say, like, on a TV show, like, "Do you have bloop left?" Like, if you're recording it live, like, [laughs] "Do you have any bloop? Like, see if you can bloop through the commercials."

Taylor: [laughs] That's very cute.

Sydnee: There's no bloop, though.

Raleigh: There's no bloop anymore.

Sydnee: Mm-mm.

Raleigh: Um... but yeah, it was—it was, like, a moment for—for us in our friendship, and then beyond that, I remember it was, like, the bit of childhood I held onto throughout, like, high school, as I was getting older.

I remember it was, like, my—my dirty secret was, "Oh no, I'm 17 years old and I'm a senior in high school, but I'm gonna go home and watch some *Adventure Time!* [laughs] No one will know!"

Sydnee: Which... "An adult, watching cartoons!"

Raleigh: "An adult, watching cartoons!" Which, like, now I love cartoons and I watch 'em all the time. But when you're in high school and, you know, you gotta be either cool or you're not cool. It's like, "I can't... I can't—"

Sydnee: Tey—Taylor does not understand this. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, I was like—I don't—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: —'cause I watched *Adventure Time* at the same time as you did, and I was like, oh, I was in, like—no, I was just an adult at that point. I was gonna say—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: If you were 17, that was just a few years ago. I was 30. And I was like, "Yeah, gonna watch some *Adventure Time!*" Like, that was—that was 30-year-old plans. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I—you know, I never got—but I think it's fair to say, like, cartoons in general, I don't seek out the way that, like—well, like, Justin will.

Raleigh: I was gonna say, your husband does. [laughs]

Sydnee: He does. And I have watched, like, *Steven Universe* because of him. A lot of the other cartoons I watch now are because of Charlie.

Raleigh: Sure, sure.

Sydnee: Or Cooper, to a lesser extent, 'cause Cooper tends to watch whatever Charlie watches. But, um—but I didn't watch—I mean, he did watch it, I think, but I never watched *Adventure Time*. Like, I had very little—I was aware of it, but I... until now, I had never sat down and watched episodes.

It was a little scary.

Raleigh: You thought it was a little scary?

Sydnee: Well, not for me. I watched it with Charlie.

Taylor: Ohh.

Raleigh: Oh, did they think it was a little scary?

Sydnee: Charlie had some moments where she was kinda like...

Raleigh: Was it the Ice King? Did she not—

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: No, we watched—what I—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't know if it was—I don't know what—we just clicked on an episode. We were kinda doin' random, based on the pictures.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. That's what they two usually do. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: And Marceline's dad—

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Ohh, that's—okay, that's fair.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Um—which, by the way, fun fact, I didn't realize until today, the voice of Marceline is the little girl in *Love Actually* who the—who sings "All I Want For Christmas is You."

Sydnee: Oh, really?

Taylor: Oh!

Sydnee: I didn't know that.

Raleigh: Olivia Olsen? Mm-hmm, that's Marceline. Um—

Sydnee: You know what's impressive? Charlie was watching, and she was sitting there for a second, and Princess Bubblegum—she said, "That's Starfire."

Raleigh: It is!

Taylor: Yep.

Sydnee: And I said, "What?" And she said, "That—that's the voice of Starfire." And she was totally right, and I was very impressed that she just—after—I mean, she'd never seen the show either, but after a few seconds she went, "That's Starfire."

Raleigh: Yeah. And I'm sure Charlie loved Princess Bubblegum.

Sydnee: Yes. She loved Princess Bubblegum. She also identified the Ice King as Tom Kenny right away.

Taylor: Huh!

Raleigh: Oh, 'cause it's SpongeBob.

Sydnee: 'Cause it's SpongeBob.

Raleigh: Wow!

Sydnee: After a few minutes of listening to the Ice King she went, "Is that SpongeBob?"

Raleigh: It's from all those cartoons listening for Justin. [laughs]

Sydnee: What she said is, "Is that the guy that I met that's the real SpongeBob, but not the one from the musical, but the one that from the cartoon? Tom Kenny?"

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: She has such a weird life. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: We met him once at a con.

Raleigh: Yeah. But she knew the SpongeBob Musical before she knew SpongeBob.

Sydnee: Yeah. So she said, "The real SpongeBob, but not the one from the musical." [laughs]

Taylor: Well, I didn't realize—I was rewatching some of the—[laughs] I love the Lemongrab episodes, 'cause that's just a—

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: —a bizarre character. And I don't know why I didn't pick up on this. I guess 'cause when those episodes were first out, it was bef—maybe before *Rick and Morty*, uh, but then I was rewatching and I'm like, "Oh, that's Justin Roiland," the creator of—one of the creators of *Rick and Morty*.

Sydnee: Ohh.

Raleigh: Ohh!

Taylor: Like, that—that sounds like a Morty voice, and it is. It's a—it's a—yeah.

Raleigh: Wow.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, and then the—

Raleigh: I guess I can hear that now that I think about it.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah. It's—it's super on the nose. But I—I did not realize that 'til I was rewatching it. And then, uh, and then the voice of Jake is, uh—what's his name? John—John DiMaggio? What is...

Sydnee: That seems right, from the credits.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yes, that is his name.

Taylor: Who was also, uh—he was also Bender from *Futurama*.

Sydnee: Ohh.

Raleigh: Oh, wow!

Sydnee: I hear that, now that you say that.

Raleigh: He was also on *Teen Titans* and *Kim Possible*.

Sydnee: Who is he on Teen—wait, *Teen Titans* or *Teen Titans Go*?

Raleigh: *Teen Titans*.

Sydnee: Oh, okay. I haven't watched that.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um... but anyways. [laughs] I—I do like it now, though, watching it back, because when you think about—like, you watch the opening credits and they give you this little, like, tour of the whole world that's left. It's a post-apocalyptic Earth is what it is.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: It is?

Raleigh: Yes. And it is—the series takes place about a thousand years after what they call the Great Mushroom War, because it was a big nuclear war, um, that wiped out most humans, except for Finn, and then a few others.

But that's why you have people that are candy, and you have, like, the Ice King, because he—it was—he was a regular human but he found this crown that had powers during, like, the apocalypse, and all these backstories come from a post-apocalyptic Earth, that now this is the world.

Sydnee: Why are there so many princesses?

Raleigh: I guess just a bunch of different—

Sydnee: Is that known?

Raleigh: —areas and universes? Unless I missed something, I don't...

Taylor: I don't know?

Sydnee: I was just curious.

Raleigh: I do know that, um—

Sydnee: I—I observed in the few episodes that we watched—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] There are a lot of princesses.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: —there are a lot of princesses.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, I don't know that when it comes to Bubblegum, she, like, was on her own at a certain point and kind of made all of the people and her own family and all the candy people herself.

'Cause she's—that's one of the things I love about that character, is she is an all-pink princess. Which, like, you know, very stereotypically feminine female, whatever. But she's not a damsel in distress. She's a smart scientist, and she is powerful, and makes it very clear that she, like, isn't there to fall in love or whatever.

Sydnee: Yeah, I like—the first episode we saw her in that we were watching, she—like, her first appearance, she's wearing a lab coat.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it was about making tarts.

Taylor: Well, and she—if you watch, like—'cause in the later seasons you get, like, the flashbacks, all the way to, like, right after the apocalypse. Uh, one of the—I think it's the episode—maybe it's Simon and Marcy? But it's

one of the ones that focuses on Simon and Marceline. Simon is who the Ice King was before he was transformed.

Sydnee: Oh, okay.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Um, and they're running from, like, the weird post-apocalyptic, like, gooey zombies that are everywhere. And there's a pink goo that's spread across, like, a bridge, that they climb up and it kind of gets them to safety.

And then later, the pink goo gives them the can of soup that he feeds to Marceline to help her feel better. That is the, like, pre—that's what... Bubblegum is birthed from.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: So she kind of, like, formed from the post-apocalyptic radiation. She was birthed from this, like, radioactive bubblegum.

Uh, I didn't catch the detail that she's the one that gives Marcy the soup until the rewatch, and then it made me cry, because I'm like, "Oh, Bubblegum's lookin' out for Marceline all the way when she—she doesn't even have arms yet!"

Raleigh: She was just goo!

Taylor: Just goo! Yeah, the lore is deep and weird.

Raleigh: It is.

Taylor: Like, it starts out—you think it's like, "Oh, princesses and swords, that fun. It's cute." And then, like, when you see the whole story it's so big, and sad, and weird.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Yeah, there's a lot to unpack in there. Dive into.

Sydnee: Well, uh, let's talk about... all of that.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] Okay.

Sydnee: You can lead me there—I don't know! I watched some, but I obviously don't know all the details. But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

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Sydnee: Hey, so, uh, we're all staying in a lot these days, or at least we should be. And part of that is figuring out how to fend for ourself when it comes to food, how to start learning how to cook for ourselves better, and we—sometimes you need some help with, like, what kind of recipes, and I don't know what ingredients, and HelloFresh has gotcha covered for all of that.

Uh, you can get fresh, pre-measured ingredients and mouthwatering seasonal recipes delivered right to your door with HelloFresh, America's number one meal kit.

They've got all kinds of different, um, boxes that you can sign up for. You can get vegetarian, you can get family friendly recipes. So whatever your eating style of choice, HelloFresh has gotcha covered. It's less prep for you, and there's less food waste.

I can't tell you how many times I've gone and bought an entire bunch of herbs just to use a teeny bit of it in a recipe, and then let them wilt away in my fridge. So, HelloFresh will make sure that you don't have all that food waste afterwards.

And, uh, HelloFresh has donated over 2.5 million meals to charity in 2019, and this year is stepping up their food donations amid the coronavirus crisis.

Uh, I can't tell you how nice it is, um, in the evenings, to—my husband and I, to put together our HelloFresh together, talk... it's nice time to spend cooking, learning a little bit more about foods and flavors and what goes well together, and developing those skills, and feeling really good about what you put into

your body, and the body of the people that you live with and love at the same time.

So, go to hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering and use code "80stillbuffering" to get a total of \$80 off, including free shipping on your first box. Additional restrictions apply. Please visit hellofresh.com for more details. That's hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering.

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Sydnee: Alright. So, help me understand, because I don't have a lot of that context for it. I mean, I watched—like I said, we kinda looked at pictures, and Charlie would be like, "That one!" And then Cooper would scream, "No, that one!" And we would—and so we watched random episodes from different seasons, and whatever, so I didn't know all this backstory.

Raleigh: So, it is. It's supposed to be a post-apocalyptic earth, that's why you have these weird, powerful dogs, creatures, candy people, whatever. Um, but I like—I was reading an interview with one of the creators, and they were saying that this time period that Finn is around—Finn's the main character, Finn the Human.

Sydnee: Right.

Raleigh: Which I know that make that distinction, it seems silly. Like, "Oh, a human and a dog." But it is important, because then you find out that humans are a very rare species now, in the new... Ooo is what it's called, but Earth.

Sydnee: Right.

Raleigh: But they said that this time period is when magic started coming back into the Earth after the events that everything, you know—the whole war and apocalypse and everything.

Um, so that's why you have princesses and kingdoms, and you have Finn with his swords and his fighting for good, and not wanting to do anything if it means that he's being evil, or he doesn't wanna hurt anyone that's not a bad

person, that this is supposed to be the time period when, like, good is coming back into the world, and magic's coming back into the world. Um, which I think is very beautiful.

Sydnee: Why do they tolerate that Ice King stealing princesses all the time?

Raleigh: Well, Sydnee, why did the Mario Brothers tolerate Bowser [through laughter] stealing the princesses all the time?

Sydnee: Well, I mean, they didn't *tolerate* it. They kept trying to defeat him.

Raleigh: Well, so do Finn and Jake!

Sydnee: Well, they just kinda take the princesses back.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: But the—the story for the Ice King gets a lot deeper and sadder, 'cause what you find out is that Simon, who the Ice King was, protected Marceline through the apocalypse, and he discovered the crown.

Like, every time he put it on, it would give the Ice King's powers, but it would make him more and more of the Ice King. And so, he basically sacrificed his identity and his awareness of himself to protect Marceline, and eventually became the whole Ice King.

So they kind of—and, I mean, you can kind of see—I don't know—I'd be curious to know how much—how deep they had their lore planned out before they started it, because the Ice King develops over time kind of away from a character that's just the one note of, "Oh, he steals princesses," into something a lot deeper and a lot sadder, and a lot of people have talked about how...

'Cause Marceline interacts with him still, and it's very sad for her because he's forgotten her. He's forgotten this whole past with them. And, uh, that it's a lot like a parallel for having a loved one with Alzheimer's. Um, and a lot

of the episodes where she's trying to get him to remember some part of them.

Uh, so, yeah. I mean, like, at the start, the Ice King's just a silly character, and by the end it's like—I don't know. One of my top favorite characters. Like, the—the saddest storyline in *Adventure Time*.

Rleigh: For sure, yeah. And, I mean, I think when you watch it—I went back and watched as much as I could from the very beginning, and definitely the first season and somewhat the second season, it's little one-off episodes that don't usually have a ton to do with each other, and they're all, you know, like, 11, 12 minutes long.

Um, usually I remember they'd play, like, two back-to-back in one 30 minute slot, so you'd just get two little stories. Um, but then it was like they really, really got into lore and characters, and then they would start doing these backstory episodes, and they would show these flashbacks into, you know, who the characters were, where they came from.

Um, and then they even did—there was—[laughs] I was reading about the show, and I read an article about the 30 best episodes, and why they were the best ones, and all of them were, you know, about either just really great story or characters. But one, it's always been, I think, in, like, my top 5, is Fiona and Cake.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yeah!

Rleigh: Which is the genderbent universe episode of Finn and Jake. Um, which they said was just them taking fan fiction and turning it into a real episode.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rleigh: So it was—the entire universe was genderbent. Neil Patrick Harris was the voice of Prince Bubblegum instead of Princess Bubblegum. Um, Cake was, like, the female version of Jake, cat. Um, but they do tackle a lot of, like—Fiona's a girl, so at first she's talking about needing, like, dates, and

wanting to date Prince Bubblegum, but then also maybe Marshall, the vampire, instead of Marceline.

Um, but then by the end she's like, "You know, whoever I am I'm gonna be, and I'm gonna be me for me, and if something comes along and I wanna be with someone and I wanna be happy and that's great, but if not, I'm happy who I am, and I'm gonna do my thing, and I'm gonna fight evil, and be my own person."

And it's very cool, 'cause it's like you have a—then, a female at the center of a whole adventure universe, which I feel like usually you get males at the center of those.

Sydnee: That's true.

Raleigh: Like with *Adventure Time*.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's really cool. I knew that they did that, because I think I saw merchandise to that effect around the time that happened. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. That was one of my favorites.

Sydnee: Do you—do you think that they were responding over time to who their audience was? Because I know watching—so, Cooper really enjoyed it, watching it, I think because there's so many different, like, shapes and colors, and it's a very visual—it's very evocative from a visual perspective.

Raleigh: Also very cute. [laughs]

Sydnee: It is very cute. So I don't—I don't know that she was really following... the plot.

Raleigh: Sure, sure.

Sydnee: But she was really into it. Charlie was a little more hit or miss. She wanted the ones with the princesses. If there wasn't a princess involved, especially Bubblegum, she was a little less—and there were definite—definitely characters and moments where she was like, "Oh no!" Like, "This is—I—I am too little for this!" [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like—looking at us like, "What are you showing me?" Um, and so I wonder if, over time, they realized they had an older audience.

Raleigh: Well, I mean, when the show starts, Finn is 12 years old. So, you know, I started watching—I was about 10. And it's kinda like, um... they aged him up, almost, with every season. So when they ended the season, he was, I think, 17 or 18. And the reason they ended the seasons—or the series, was they said because this was about his growing up, and going through adolescence, and learning how to be an adult, and entering adulthood, and we ended this part of his story here, because this was him leaving his childhood and becoming an adult.

Um, so I think they definitely started aging up the stories and the characters with their audience, because I know that I almost aged up perfectly in line with Finn throughout the series. Um, which is pretty cool to—to watch.

Sydnee: That is cool.

Taylor: And I think it follows that same formula. We talked about it when we talked about *Sailor Moon*, and I think *Steven Universe* does it too, where they start with something that seems kind of innocuous and very easy to follow and easy to understand and episodic, just, like, you know, episode-of-the-day-ish. And then it grows in depth and complexity with the audience, and I think that's really—it's a smart way to plan a cartoon that's gonna last for that long.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I wonder if more and more cartoons are going to do that. Um, that are aimed at children. Because I don't think that was ever a thing, like,

traditionally, with cartoons we watched when we were little, that they would grow into, like, something you could follow beyond... you know.

Rileigh: Just little one-off episodes with cute stories and characters.

Sydnee: And no connection between episodes. I mean—but I would say that's definitely more and more true of the stuff we watch with the girls.

Rileigh: I mean, it's just, every single character—there's even a whole episode that's on that list of the best episodes I was looking at called Root Beer Guy, and it's about this little side character that's in the very first episode called Root Beer Guy, who's just—I mean, he's a little candy person, looks like a little thing of root beer. But then he gets a whole episode that's just about him, and this, like, deep life he has about wanting to be a true crime author—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: —and then, he's not very good at writing, and he's married and has kids, but then he stumbles upon this plot to kidnap Princess Bubblegum, so he starts following it around and writing about it, and like... it's just things like that, where they give even the smallest characters that seem most innocuous, like Gunther, who's the Ice King's, like, head penguin.

Taylor: I love Gunther.

Rileigh: Ends up becoming, like, the Ice King sort of equivalent by the end, and wants power, and also wants his own drum set like the Ice King has. And the Peppermint Butler who's, like, Princess Bubblegum's servant, ends up having, like, dark magical powers. I mean, it's just... everything has something going on. It's awesome.

Taylor: And some of the—I mean, both standalone episodes and the lore—it's, like, the depth and kind of the sadness that they don't shy away from, like the—the Cookie Princess episode?

Um, that episode—I rewatched that and, man, it's entirely about this little cookie who... I guess he's in, like, a candy person orphanage as a kid, and Princess Bubblegum visits and says, like, "Oh, you could be anything you wanna be!" And he says, "I wanna be a princess!" And she laughs at him.

And so he grows up with this, like, kind of sadness about, you know, Princess Bubblegum laughing at him. And it turn—like, the story is he, like, takes a Quickie Mart, like, hostage, to force Princess Bubblegum to give her crown to him so he could be the Cookie Princess.

And, like, it's really sad. Like, it's—you know, they're all the—the banana guards, like, chase him, and he—he jumps off a cliff and shatters and, like, ends up in a mental hospital in, like, a straitjacket.

And then, like, Jake show up with a crown for him so he can finally be the Cookie Princess. It's a really complex episode that, like, kind of frames Bubblegum as a bad guy, and Jake's not really paying attention to the sadness of it.

It's like, that's not just something that, like, a kid can—that's just not like, "Oh, it's a funny episode." It's really deep and sad! Or, uh, not—not sad, but—but deep.

The episode where Jake goes—or that Finn goes into the pillow world, and he lives an entire life. Like, he meets the pillow princess and marries her and has kids with her, and grows old and chooses to stay there. Like, he has the opportunity to come back to his world but he doesn't.

And so he chooses to die in the pillow world, and then, like, comes back to his world as, like, a little boy again. Like, it's a whole lifetime that he lives inside the pillow world, and then just forgives—forgets it. And, like, that's not just goofy, funny stuff. That's like a... you know.

Raleigh: That's a whole lifetime.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydney: That happens on *Doctor Who* sometimes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I was just thinking, like—

Raleigh: Yeah, it does!

Sydnee: "Oh, like on *Doctor Who*."

Taylor: Well, you—but, you know, not a plot line that you would imagine in a kids' cartoon, you know.

Sydnee: No, no. Well, and that sounds to me like the kind of thing that isn't... there are a lot of, um... there are a lot of plot lines... you know—okay. You guys are gonna make fun of me. When—when I watch *Peppa Pig* with Charlie and Cooper..

Raleigh: [bursts into laughter]

Sydnee: They love Peppa Pig. But there are, like—there are lines and jokes and story parts that are clearly because they know parents are watching.

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: Like, very evidently, they know parents are watching. And they're very funny. But, like, the plot is not about that. It's aimed at kids. Like, it's for—this is for kids.

Raleigh: I have been made to watch *Peppa Pig* many times, and there is no through plot... [laughs] ... going on.

Sydnee: No. No. It is for kids. But there are moments in there that they're like, "Don't worry. We got you, parents. Here you go. Here you go. Here's a little something for you."

'Cause there are moments that make me laugh very hard, and both Charlie and Cooper turn around and look at me like... [pauses]

Raleigh: "What—"

Sydnee: "What are you doing." Um, this is not like that, 'cause that's what I—

Raleigh: [through laughter] *Adventure Time* is not like *Peppa Pig*.

Sydnee: No—well, I mean, this is not like—

Taylor: I was like, "Is there a depth to *Peppa Pig* that I'm—I'm missing out on?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: No—well, it's not—it's not a depth. It's like little, like... little things that they throw out there for the parents.

Raleigh: Well, it's like when you watch *SpongeBob* back and there are all those moments, like, jokes—I have watched *SpongeBob* back. And there are moments and jokes where I'm like, "Oh. I didn't get that as a kid. That's an adult joke now. I see. I get it."

Taylor: Well, and it—I think it's—'cause it's, you know, a lot of—a lot of the real—like, it's not necessarily lessons that you learn in adulthood. But the things you encounter, it's just kind of like, "Oh, that's a new thing I have to think about." Or, "That's—that's a reality I have to face."

And that's the thing. Like, *Adventure Time* doesn't always boil down to, "Here's a lesson about sharing." Like, "Here's a lesson about friendship."

A lot of times it's like, "Here's just a weird gray area of truth that you'll confront as you come of age, that you'll have to figure out how to deal with."

Sydnee: Yeah, and that sounds older to me. Like, that's—that's different. I was contrasting, I guess.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: Like... it is—this is something where, like, a plot line like that would be aimed at someone older. Would not be, like, "Charlie can identify with this part of it, but there's also this other level." It sounds like it is *on* that level intentionally.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, we have intentionally made the plot this complex and nuanced, as opposed to *Peppa Pig*, which is... wonderful, but not as complex... and nuanced, [through laughter] perhaps.

Raleigh: Um, I do think it's important to know—we mentioned this in our—a few episodes ago. Um, that the very last episode, the series finale, ends with Princess Bubblegum and Marceline the Vampire Queen sharing a kiss, a very sweet moment, where Marceline is worried Princess Bubblegum might... die, basically. There's a whole 'nother war going on, and she doesn't, and then they kiss.

And there's this whole backstory that's never talked about in too much detail or, like, said explicitly, but it's like Taylor mentioned before. They obviously used to have some sort of romantic history.

Um, and then you see that at the very end of the show, which I think is super cool, because I think that was probably the first time I had ever seen two female animated characters kiss, or be together romantically. I don't think that's anything I'd ever seen before.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah. And it is—it doesn't feel like it comes from nowhere, because there is a lot of back and forth with the characters where you can—you get the sense they were very close, and then there was a falling out, and then, you know, there was a lot of tension between them. Uh, and it's really... it's really beautiful rewatching it and being like, "Oh, this was always supposed to happen."

Maybe not always. I think that they've said, like, it was a decision they made, like, earlier on in the series, but—and started, like, dropping hints, you know.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and it is nice to see—like, there was such a long time where that sort of representation that was kind of hinted at and suggested was as good as you could hope to get, you know? Um, whereas now, like, when I think of the cartoons that my kids watch now, um, I talk a lot about *The Loud House* as being representative of not just straight relationships and straight characters. But, um, *Craig of the Creek* is another really great example. Which, if you're not watching...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... you all should watch *Craig*—and *Craig of the Creek* is another one, too, where I get the sense that there is going to be more of a through line, that they're slowly building, but it's so slow. And so it still feels very, like, one-off, episodic. But, like—but again, the representation of characters who aren't straight is—it's explicit. It's part of it.

Whereas before, like, you would kind of couch that in some sort of magical fantastic world, you know? Same as, like, *Steven Universe*, right? *Steven Universe* very much started with that kind of idea. These were not straight relationships but it's also, like, they're not humans, so...

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, which brings up I think my favorite relationship in *Adventure Time*, between Jake and Lady Rainicorn—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: —who are together from the very first episode. And Lady Rainicorn is just this magical flying rainbow unicorn, who only speaks... Korean I believe is what she's speaking? Um, the whole time. Right?

Taylor: I think—yeah, I think you're right. She speaks Korean.

Raleigh: I think it's Korean. Um, but—and they don't—I mean, I watch with subtitles almost always just, like, by force of habit. They don't ever put in, like, "Oh, here's what she's actually saying."

It's just, that is her character, that is the language she speaks, and Jake is the only one who ever fully understands her, and they have a very—[laughs quietly] Very weird relationship, because it's Jake the Dog, and then a big... flying rainbow unicorn.

Taylor: And they have babies!

Raleigh: Um... and they have lots of little magical babies! And they're all very cute. [laughs]

Taylor: And the babies all get, like—they all grow—like, the children of Rainicorns or magic dogs grow up very fast, so they all, like, become young adults, and Jake has to deal with that. Like, there's one episode where—

Sydney: That's funny.

Taylor: —one of his kids is super responsible and, like, put together and professional, and it's contrasted with Jake just, you know, livin' in a tree house with his kid best friend. And it's like... [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Oh no!

Taylor: Yeah, "My kid's more responsible than me! What do I do?" [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, but also, Jake and Finn, which I didn't mention earlier, are brothers. Like, adopted brothers. Um, because Finn was abandoned when he was a little baby, which you find out later, like, there was whole protection by his human parents, and they had to leave him behind, and all this kind of stuff. But then Jake's dog parents find him and they're like, "Oh, let's... take care of this baby."

And the story is, you know, based on him—Jake—er, Finn was a baby, he pooped on the ground, and fell into his poop. It was a story called Boom Boom Mountain. Then he got very sad about it, and he was crying as a baby. He had pooped, and then Jake's parents... found him in his poop, and carried him home, and then they adopted him and owned him, and now he and Jake were brothers.

Taylor: You said the word "poop" a lot just now.

Raleigh: I know.

Sydnee: Yeah, I was gonna say, that was a lot of that in there.

Raleigh: Well that's, like, the whole—it was very sad! He was—like, they were trying to save someone who was stuck on Boom Boom Mountain, and Finn had to deal with this whole, like, traumatic past he had had there, and had to, like, still fight to save the people that were sad there, even though being there gave him bad memories of being there when he was a baby, and being alone in his—in his boom boom.

Taylor: Well, and that is kind of one of the weird, roundabout ways that they—they deal with things that are actually, like—I mean, yeah, that's a silly story, but they're talking about dealing with past trauma.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Sure. Sure.

Taylor: I mean... that's—they—they could—yeah.

Raleigh: Which again, you—yeah.

Sydnee: I follow.

Rleigh: You watch it when you're a kid and you're like, "Aw, he pooped, and got stuck in his poop and he cried and he's a baby."

But then you watch it when you're older and you're like, "Aw, but he, like, has some traumatic experiences goin' on there, and he's having to deal with those to help other people!"

Taylor: Well, and I mean, like, similarly, you brought up his parents. Like, he finally, like, finds his Dad, and his Dad's a total jerk face. Like—

Sydnee: Aw...

Taylor: —like, he loses an arm trying to find a Dad, and is depressed! Like, right—like, you know?

Rleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, goes through a depression afterwards. And they—you know, this is not stuff—like, an adopted kid confront—like, finding his, you know, his parents and, like, discovering that they aren't great people.

Like, that's... that is a story line for a kid's cartoon. An important one, I think, but, you know. Dealt with in kind of a fanciful, magical way, but then relating to something that's real and important to recognize.

Rleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: Um, not as important, but I did enjoy the goose.

Rleigh: You did?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rleigh: Enjoyed the goose.

Sydnee: The—the goose made me laugh a lot.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I also wanted to know if Doctor Princess is a character that comes back, or is she just there for the one episode?

Taylor: Uhhh...

Raleigh: Ummm... there—

Sydnee: She helps deliver, uh... Gunther's... baby.

Raleigh: Yeah. I know there are several episodes where, like, all the princesses are just, like, in kind of one big princess cluster. And I wanna say she's there for all of those, where just you kinda got all the princesses there at once.

Sydnee: I enjoyed the, um... "I'm not even a real princess, it's just my surname" joke.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah, that was very good.

Sydnee: But I felt seen from Doctor Princess.

Taylor: Doctor Princess kinda has a you vibe.

Raleigh: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: She does. She has a me vibe. I saw her and I was like, "Oh, okay. I'm here."

Raleigh: I get it, yeah.

Sydnee: "I'm present."

Raleigh: Um, I forgot to mention, Jake and Lady Rainicorn have babies and Jake, you know, identifies as a male character, but he is the one that has the children. Um, and Jake's Dad was the one that had him, and, like, gave birth.

And I think that's really cool that, you know, you have this male character who is dating and married to, I suppose, a female character, but the males are the ones having the kids. Because, like, gender roles don't seem to mean much in the world of *Adventure Time*.

Um, and it's never a thing they make a big deal out of, either. Just like I don't think they ever make, like, a whole big... "Oh no, controversy!" ordeal over, like, Bubblegum and Marceline being together at some point. Um, which I think is cool.

Sydnee: Well, very cool.

Taylor: Uh, I just wanted to check. She—Doctor Princess does appear in a lot of episodes. But also, uh, she appears in disguise as Science Wizard!
[laughs]

Raleigh: Science Wizard?!

Taylor: That's—yeah.

Sydnee: Oh no, now you've given away my other identity!

Taylor: Oh no!

Raleigh: Oh no!

Sydnee: I—I often am disguised as Science Wizard.

Raleigh: Oh no!

Taylor: So did you—did you perhaps encounter Tree Trunks in your—in your little bit of watching? Oh.

Raleigh: [gasps]

Sydnee: I did not.

Raleigh: You didn't?!

Taylor: Tree Trunks is one of my favorite characters.

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: The first—I—I mean, that's—like, I kind of felt like, the first season's real light and silly. And, like, the first episode with Tree Trunks it's, like, maybe—it's one of the first episodes in the season—er, in the series.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, it's really dark! [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: She—[laughs]

Raleigh: Tree Trunks is a little tiny elephant, and she's like an old woman, I think. Like, she's very old.

Taylor: Yeah, she talks in this silly old lady voice. It's really cute.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, but she talks of wanting to pick this perfect crystal enchanted gem apple, because she makes pies, and she wants to make one out of this apple, but she's not very good at adventuring because she's old, so Finn and Jake take her on this adventure through the—the... scary forest, to find the gem apple, and show her that she can be a good adventurer, but—

Sydnee: Awww.

Raleigh: Like, her way of trying to beat animal—or beat monsters is to, like, put on makeup and do a—a sexy dance for 'em. [snorts] And seduce 'em and try to kiss 'em. [laughs]

Taylor: And they don't shy away! Like, she's goin' like, "[old lady voice] I'm gonna seduce it with my body!" [laughs] It's like, oh no! [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh no. Oh no.

Raleigh: But it's very good, it's very cute.

Taylor: And then, like—spoiler alert for the very old episode of Adventure Time. It all culminates when finally they find the crystal apple, and so they, like, lift her up, and she takes a bite of it, and then she explodes! And then they go to credits. Like, that's—

Raleigh: Yep.

Taylor: "Uhh... " [laughs]

Raleigh: And then it's just a while before you hear from Tree Trunks again. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, she comes back. She's just... you know.

Sydnee: Well, that's good.

Raleigh: Yeah, she's fine.

Taylor: It's really... aw, man. It's like, every episode just has so many weird little details. Like, there is so much world building. There are so many characters that you just—you wanna know about, or they'll eventually come back to. There's so much loop around. Like, it's really... the—the amount of creativity, um, that's poured into this, like, uh... it's amazing. It's so just, like, rich.

Raleigh: Yeah. Rewatching, I was going to just pick at it a little bit to get the basics back, but I couldn't stop watching.

Sydnee: Well, I think, um, I will be watching more, because Charlie and Cooper very much want to watch more.

Raleigh: Oh, good, good.

Taylor: I'm—I'm glad.

Raleigh: Charlie and Cooper will like the little Rainicorn Jake babies.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes. Yeah. Especially Cooper was, like, demanding, didn't wanna go to bed last night—

Raleigh: That makes sense.

Sydnee: —demanding another episode.

Raleigh: Yeah. I can see Cooper liking it a lot.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I would say, it's very bright. What I will say, uh, one of the main characters on that, Pendleton Ward, there's a—not for kids, but there's a new show on Netflix called *The Midnight Gospel*, which is one of the most beautiful things—it's animated, uh, but one of the most beautiful, like, just heart-wrenching—it's—it's basically—it's kinda built around a podcast, actually.

Uh, it's like he's interviewing these different people, and they're kind of going through these fantasy landscapes as he's interviewing them, but then the actual dialogue is from a podcast interview. And it's really... gorgeous. It's intense. There's, like—it's definitely for adults. Don't let the kids watch this, 100%, but it's really good.

Raleigh: Um, Syd, what's up next?

Sydnee: Oh, next! Um... we haven't done *Archie* yet.

Raleigh: Aw man, here we go.

Sydnee: Aw man.

Taylor: Well, am I doin'—and we're not talkin'—now, *Riverdale*, or we're talkin' *Archie*?

Raleigh: Oh?

Sydnee: Uh, at least—at least make sure you know the language of *Archie Comics*.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] The language.

Sydnee: I will let you all—I will let you all discuss *Riverdale* as much as you see fit. *I will not be watching Riverdale.*

Raleigh: I had to stop watching *Riverdale*, even, so...

Sydnee: I will not—I will not—

Taylor: Yeah, I fell off.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, I—I will be discussing... the *Archies* of yore.

Raleigh: I'll reread some of your old ones I still have at the house.

Sydnee: Sure. I have some of you need some.

Raleigh: Oh, good.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Even more!

Sydnee: You need some double digests? I got some.

Raleigh: Um, well, thank you all for watching *Adventure Time* with me and discussing it with me.

Sydnee: Well, thank you.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: It was a—a good addition for the girls.

Raleigh: Good.

Sydnee: A good new show for them.

Taylor: One of my all-time favorites.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So maybe I won't have to watch the same episode of *Mickey's Mou—Mickey Mouse Clubhouse* with the pirate ship and the treasure again.

Raleigh: I hope you'll get outta that cycle. [snorts]

Sydnee: I've seen it 35 times.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] That curse.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, well, thank you both. Thank you, listeners. Um, I hope you're all staying safe, staying well, um, taking care of yourselves. Thank you to MaximumFun.org for hosting our show.

You should go to Maximum Fun for lots of podcasts you would enjoy. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, if you have suggestions or questions or comments. You can tweet at us @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.

Sydnee: Now for extra credit, you could listen to the *Archies* as well.

Rileigh: What about the old cartoon?

Sydnee: Oh, hey.

Taylor: Oh yeah.

Rileigh: I've seen that before.

[theme music plays]

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Speaker One: I started listening to *Oh No, Ross and Carrie!* shortly after I broke my arm, and the doctor had told me I'd never walk again.

Speaker Two: I couldn't get my book started.

Speaker Three: I was lost, honestly.

Speaker Four: I knew it was time to make a change.

[inspirational music plays in the background]

Speaker One: There's something about *Oh No, Ross and Carrie!* that you just can't get anywhere else.

Speaker Two: They're thought leaders, discoverers, founders.

Speaker Three: I'd call them heroes.

Speaker Five: Ross and Carrie don't just report on fringe science, spirituality, and claims of the paranormal. They take part themselves.

Speaker Three: They show up so you don't have to.

Speaker Four: But you might find that you want to.

[music swells]

Speaker One: My arm is better. I can walk again!

Speaker Two: I wrote an entire book this weekend! It—it's terrible, but I did it!

Speaker Three: Just go to MaximumFun.org.

Together: Thank you, Ross and Carrie!

Speaker Six: [sped up] *Oh No, Ross and Carrie!* is just a podcast. It doesn't do anything. It's just sounds you listen to in your ears. All these people are made up. Goodbye.

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