

Still Buffering 220: Weezer

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: So, uh... Teylor, Raleigh, how are y'all doin'? Listeners at home, I hope you're doin'—you can't answer.

Raleigh: Hangin' in there.

Sydnee: So I'll just—I'll just wait for you guys.

Raleigh: You could do that thing like they do in *Dora*, like when she asks a question and then, like—

Taylor: [holding back laughter] Just pause?

Raleigh: —pauses and then just says, "Great!" [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Or, "I'm sorry!" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: This is actually—that actually would probably fill a lot of need right now.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: You know? People who are—who are staying at home, quarantining, isolating, need somebody to talk to. We could create, like, one of those old—have you seen those old, like, creepy VHS ones?

Raleigh: Yeah, yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: There's like, a—

Raleigh: Justin has shown me those before.

Sydnee: —there's, like, a therapist one.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Where—he just, like, sits there and he's like, "How are you feeling? Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm."

Raleigh: "Mm-hmm."

Sydnee: "Yeah, I can understand feeling that way right now." [pauses] So—
[laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Do—is that our podcast? Should we do that instead?

Sydnee: Alright.

Taylor: Yeah, the bonus material. Just, uh—

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: Just nice *Still Buffering* therapy for all y'all.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Uh, speaking of bonus material, Taylor, I believe you're referencing the Max Fun Drive.

Taylor: Uh, y—yes! That was the plan all along, was what I did there.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm-hmm!

Sydnee: That was such a smooth transition into a brief mention of the Max Fun Drive right now. We'll get into it a little more later, but we did want to remind you that right now, we have a—we have the Max Fun Drive goin' on. We delayed it for

a while. It's finally here. Uh, because we are an audience supported network, an audience supported show. Uh, we—

Raleigh: And that's—that's you.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: That's the audience.

Sydnee: Yes. Thank you, Raleigh. That—

Raleigh: Just reminding...

Sydnee: —if you are listening, then you're the audience.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Yes.

Sydnee: If you're *doing* the podcast, then you're—

Taylor: We are not—I'm not—I'm listening to you right now though, so am I—what am I? I don't—

Raleigh: If you're doing the podcast, does that make you the podcast? Are we the podcast?

Sydnee: These are existential questions.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That you can find the answer to on shows like *Still Buffering*, [holding back laughter] and others on the Maximum Fun Drive.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: An audience supported network, which means that you help make the content that we hope you enjoy, 'cause we enjoy making it for you. Um, and if that's something you want to do right now, MaximumFun.org/join is the way to become a member, become a part of our family, help us keep making this stuff that, uh, we love to do and we think you enjoy and—it's a great time to do that if you can, if you're in a position to become a monthly member.

Uh, because we give you gifts right now! And there are different levels. People give \$5 a month, \$10 a month, there are other levels. Whatever works for you. If it's something you can do, you're comfortable doing, uh, we really appreciate it.

It helps us keep making shows, and make our sound better, make our equipment better. Uh, it gives us the time to be able to create more content that, uh, we think you enjoy, and, um—anyway, we'll tell you more about the gifts, and all the other ways you can become a member right now. But, uh, in the meantime, Maximumfun.org/join.

Thank you for that very smooth transition, Tey.

Taylor: Yeah! That's what—what I do. [stilted] I do... smooth... things.

Sydney: [muffled laughter]

Riley: That was the smoothest transition in the history of this podcast.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydney: In—in response to me calling you smooth, you just said the least smooth thing a person can say!

Taylor: [through laughter] Or did I?

Sydney: "That's what I do. [slowly] Smooth... things. It's what I do."

Taylor: [laughs] I don't know, would you know how to judge smooth things? Not-smooth Sydney?

Sydney: No, that's fair. I have no idea.

Taylor: There you go.

Riley: Does that make you, like, what—rough? Is that the opposite of smooth?

Taylor: Bumpy.

Riley: Bumpy?

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Uh, when I was in college for a while—this is sort of tangentially related—my friends for a while tried to get a nickname going for me. Um...

Taylor: Oh no.

[pauses]

Sydnee: Rawhide? [laughs quietly]

Taylor: What?! I don't—do I wanna—I don't know if I wanna know.

Sydnee: Because—

Raleigh: [sing-song] Whyyy?!

Sydnee: Because I used to dry shave a lot.

Raleigh: Oh.

Sydnee: And I didn't—it didn't bother my skin.

Raleigh: That's uncomfy.

Sydnee: I have very insensitive skin, apparently, because I could do that.

Taylor: [laughs] That is the lamest way you could possibly earn that nickname.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] That's fair! That's fair. And it did not stick, thank goodness. I was like, "Oh no, I don't—mm-mm, no, I do not appreciate this. Please no."

Taylor: Yeah, please not that. Wow. Ol'—ol' Rawhide Syd.

Sydnee: It was—it was true, when, uh—back in the times—back in the before times when one could travel, I would do that when we were backpacking.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Not in—not, like, around other tourists when we were off the beaten path, [holding back laughter] havin' those real... adventures.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I'd just whip out my razor and shave my legs on the side of the road real quick, and my friends would—

Raleigh: That's horrible.

Sydnee: Yes. Look at me in horror.

Taylor: I'm really glad that it's increasingly, like—I mean, it should never not have been socially acceptable, but I feel like more people are comfortable not shaving their legs or pits whatever these days.

Because the idea of, like, what—if you're doing it to make other people comfortable or whatever, like, your butchered legs [laughs] that have been dry-shaven and are bleeding—

Raleigh: [through laughter] Yeah!

Taylor: —that is far more disturbing—should be, to anybody, than some naturally occurring leg hair. Uh... I would assume.

Sydnee: That's fair.

Raleigh: Although I will say, if you are someone to shave anything and you are in a position like Sydnee and you, uh—you need to shave, uh, out in the wild? I—I don't know. They—they make—they make little shavers now that have the water and the cream in the razor—

Sydnee: Yeah!

Raleigh: —so you squeeze it, and you shave, and it's all in one thing!

Sydnee: I've seen those. And they also make—so, I always bought the cheapest blades, and then one time Charlie was like, "Get the pink ones." And I was like, "Oh, the pink ones have, like, fancy stuff in 'em."

And she was like, "But they're pink!" And I'm—I—whatever. I do not wanna argue. That's fine. I'll get the pink—I'll treat myself. I'll get the pink ones.

Raleigh: Get the pink ones.

Sydnee: Well, the pink ones have this little cushion of, like, gel?

Raleigh: Yup!

Sydnee: With stuff in it? So, like, if you just get it wet, you don't have to use anything with that. It's very soothing. I used that this morning, actually. [through laughter] My legs are very soothed.

Raleigh: Although I will say, with how little I have left the house, [through laughter] I have very rarely shaved my—

Sydnee: Yeah, that's true.

Raleigh: —underarms or my legs. What's the point?

Sydnee: I was inspired by you, Tey, actually. I—I went for a while and shaved a lot less, 'cause I was like, "You know? [pauses] why do I need to do this?"

Taylor: I mean it's probably... [through laughter] Because I haven't been shaving!

Sydnee: Well, I noticed once before that you didn't shave as frequently as I did, and I was inspired.

Taylor: I—I've just given up on it now. Not given up. I've just decided I don't need that—'cause I was always somebody that would just do it because I felt I had to do it, but I do it in the last minute before leaving my house begrudgingly, and then I'd be like, "I don't... this is worse. Now I'm itchy, and I'm—this is worse. This is worse for me, so I don't really care about how the rest of you feel about it, 'cause it's worse for me. [laughs] And it's my body."

Sydnee: I—I think that is absolutely true. You should shave if you want to, and don't if you don't.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [through laughter] But I would say that probably doing it on the side of road is weird in general!

Taylor: That is, I think, especially, like, just from a hygienic point of view, you know? Like, sometimes you cut yourself when you shave. I don't think you wanna be out in the wilderness.

Rileigh: Knowing—knowing Sydnee, though, I have to ask. Was there ever a moment when you were doing it where, like, maybe you didn't necessarily have to at that moment, but you were like, "Think about... how adventurous, and how, like... "

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: "... how wild this makes me. This what I'm doing?"

Taylor: [simultaneously] "Shaving by the side of the road!" [laughs]

Sydnee: That—that's part of youth—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —is doing things for the story. Is part of—[laughs]

Taylor: I would agree with that, but that is a very specific story that you were recording there.

Sydnee: I like to cultivate a very specific image of myself in the minds of everyone who ever knew me, which is... uh...

Rileigh: Wilderness Syd!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Rawhide!

Sydnee: Somewhat uncivilized. [laughs]

Taylor: Ol' Rawhide.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [through laughter] Ol' Rawhide!

Sydnee: I was never—I was never quite comfortable in the human world.
[laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm kidding!

Taylor: One with—one with nature.

Sydnee: One with nature. This is—I—that's true. I have—I have taken this time to return to my natural roots, become closer to the Earth... shower less—

Raleigh: You have a—you have a garden. [laughs]

Taylor: You have a—there we go.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I don't know. I think—

Sydnee: I just mean I—

Taylor: —I think nature sees you shaving on the side of the road and is like, "What are you *doing*?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: "Don't do that here! We don't do that here!"

Rileigh: "I'm not for this!"

Sydnee: I just—I like to think of myself as a hardy sort. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: [blows raspberry] That's how you know someone's hardy, when they tell you that they're of the hardy sort.

Sydnee: That's Syd. Real crossin' the plains type material over there.

Taylor: Real—real Oregon trail, that one.

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Taylor: No—no dysentery, that one.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: You know, that's a very specific aesthetic. You were right, Syd. Uh—

Sydnee: That—[laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —and it's mine!

Taylor: Be who you wanna be, and if that's the modern iteration of a, uh, [through laughter] pioneer that could survive the Oregon trail, then that's fine! You be you. Whatever that means to you.

Sydnee: I also have medical skills. They're there too.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] We—we're aware.

Sydnee: Those are actually useful.

Taylor: That's...

Raleigh: [snorts]

Sydnee: Um, I don't have any way to talk about Weezer after this. [laughs]

Taylor: No, there is no clean [crosstalk]—

Raleigh: I think you just did!

Taylor: I—well, you know, Weezer definitely, uh, does what they wanna do. Um... sometimes to bizarre result. Uh—

Sydnee: That's true.

Taylor: Yeah. So I brought—I mean, I brought this up for my week, but Syd, I think it definitely—it's just as much a you thing as it is me. Um, the band Weezer, they started in LA in, like, '92. Um, they have been releasing albums ever since. Uh, they're still actively releasing albums.

The lineup's changed a few times, but it's always centered around Rivers Cuomo, the lead singer, main writer, lead guitar for the most part. He switched off at some point, but yeah. Um, and pretty—pretty kind of iconic, like, impactful band of the—the late 90's and early 2000's.

Sydnee: Can I tell you—this is embarrassing. This is an embarrassing stor—as if the—

Raleigh: Ohh!

Sydnee: —as if I haven't already embarrassed myself enough today!

Raleigh: Yeah! [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, the—Taylor, I have a very—I don't know why. Probably because I felt embarrassed at the time. You know how sometimes if you have a memory that's embarrassing, it sticks with you better?

Taylor: I have mine cataloged alphabetically for instant recall in my head at all times.

Raleigh: And sometimes they just pop back in and I just feel that secondhand embarrassment all over again.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, yep. I've—I've got those. Uh, this is one—it's not as—it's not—it was just you and me, so it's not, like, terribly embarrassing, but I do remember being embarrassed, so that's probably why it's stuck with me.

You and I—you introduced me to Weezer.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: There is an ex-boyfriend who would probably like to claim that, but it was not the ex-boyfriend.

Taylor: That ex-boyfriend liked to claim a *lot* of music that I had already put in front of your face.

Sydnee: That is true, that is true. Uh, you were the one who first told me about Weezer, and I still remember, we were in my purple neon.

Taylor: [laughs] Old—old nano.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Ol' nano. And I don't know if you had it on a burned CD or if we were going in the house for you to play it for me, but you said, "There's a—have you heard the song by that band, Weezer, called 'Say It Ain't So?'"

And I said, "Yeah! I've heard that song."

And you were like, "You should listen to them, they're really good."

And I was like, "I don't know. I don't—I don't think that song's great."

And you were like, "Yeah it is! It's a great song!"

And I was like, "Do you mean that one that's like, 'Say it ain't so, I will not go, turn the light—'"

Taylor: [muffled laughter]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And you were like, "[loudly] No, no, no!"

Taylor: Which to be fair, that's Blink 182, and I don't mind Blink—I like Blink 182. I was—I will say, at the time—the funny level to that story, Syd, is that at the time I *definitely* liked Blink 182, but I was too cool to admit it, so—[laughs]

Raleigh: Hmmm.

Sydnee: Well, and that's what I remember was the judgment of, like, "Are you singing a Blink 182 song?!"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "And I am talking about, uh, *Weezer!*" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] This is just—

Sydnee: I still remember that judgment and feeling, like, "Oh. Not that? No. I don't know what you're talking about." [laughs]

Raleigh: "No, never mind, it's just something different—[indistinct mumbling]"

Sydnee: "[mumbling] I don't know that song. I don't know—" but then you played it for me, and it was great. And—

Taylor: Def—definitely not Blink 182, that's true. Very different tone. [laughs]

Sydnee: 'Cause—'Cause then a certain ex-boyfriend gave me that—gave me a mixtape with, uh... "The World Has Turned" on it. And was like, "Hey. This is by a band called Weezer. They're great."

And I was like, "I know."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] "I have been introduced to... Weezer."

Sydnee: *They* sing a song... called "Say It Ain't So."

Raleigh: And did you know it's not the same one—

Sydnee: [laughs] It's different!

Raleigh: —as Blink 182's?

Sydnee: That was my, uh—that was my introduction to Weezer, and I fell in love. I fell in love with the *Blue Album*. I fell in love with it.

Taylor: Well, and the—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] I, uh—

Taylor: Go ahead.

Raleigh: Yeah, I have a similar memory, except being in a car with Sydnee and Justin at some point when I was probably no older than, like, I don't know, seven or eight? And you saying, "Raleigh, have you heard Weezer before?"

And I said, "What?"

And you said, "You know, like the two songs on Rock Band that we sing a lot."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I mean, that's how a lot of people were introduced.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: That's fair.

Sydnee: Either that or the Muppets, so.

Raleigh: You said, "'Buddy Holly' and 'Say It Ain't So,' those were two of your go-to Rock Band songs!"

And I said, "Yeah, I've—I've heard you sing those before."

So then you played I guess what was the *Blue Album* probably at that point. Um, but yeah.

Sydnee: I felt like the *Blue Album* was the most accessible for people who were unfamiliar with Weezer. And so that—

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: —and it was—although I don't know, Taylor, you and I may be on different sides of this debate. I was also in the *Blue Album* is better camp.

Taylor: Uh—well, okay. I should explain what that means. A lot of older Weezer fans tend to stop thinking Weezer albums matter after, like... when did—when did the *Pink*—I mean, *Green Album* came out in 2001, so that was the first album that didn't matter, I guess. It's really just *Blue* and *Pinkerton*. Like, that's it. There was the *Blue Album*, there was *Pinkerton*, and everything after that was trash.

I wholeheartedly disagree with that. Um, and I think that was a really kind of damaging idea to the band as a whole. But, uh, I do still think that they're arguably the two best albums. Uh, and I don't—

Sydnee: I would agree.

Taylor: —I don't know. I mean, *Pinkerton* is—it's dark, it's heavy, it's sad, it's weird, it's creepy? It—through a modern lens it's kinda creepy, some of the songs. Um, but I—I used to—I mean, I still think I prefer it. I still think I fall *Pinkerton* to *Blue*. But I do think that *Blue Album* is the more enjoyable, sing-along-in-your-car-with-your-friends album.

Sydnee: Well, and it definitely, like, made the pop culture impact, I would say. The way that—it's weird, because—I was listening to both, and I was thinking about, like—the *Blue Album* has, uh—I would say it's catchier.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's hookier, you know? So you can see where, like, you could hear a song on the radio. Back then, people heard songs on the radio.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [sarcastically] What?!

Sydnee: And—and you would hear those song someone be like, "Hey, what's that? I gotta hear that again." And plus they made, like, the "Buddy Holly" music video stuck with me.

Taylor: Oh, it's great.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: It's, uh—it's—]

Sydnee: Raleigh's just staring, blank.

Taylor: It's the—[laughs quietly] uh, it's Weezer playing on the set of *Happy Days*, right? And they spliced it in so it looks like it's part of an episode of *Happy Days*. Like, it's really well done and it's just really cute and charming and funny.

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] Go ahead, ask!

Raleigh: No, no, no.

Sydnee: Go ahead, ask the question!

Raleigh: No, no, no, no.

Sydnee: Go ahead!

Raleigh: No, I don't want to. No.

Sydnee: It's okay. It predates us too.

Taylor: Yeah, I don't really know—I mean, I know what *Happy Days* is from, like, Nick at Night reruns.

Raleigh: Yeah, I don't know what that is.

Taylor: That's okay. [laughs]

Sydnee: That's what—Raleigh was about to say, "What's *Happy Days*?" [laughs]

Taylor: Raleigh, it is—it is not, like, a thing that—I don't know. I'm gonna—I'm gonna let—

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: —I'm gonna let Gen Z off the hook on knowing what *Happy Days* is. [laughs]

Raleigh: This is one of those moments—

Sydnee: No, there is no reason—

Raleigh: —that I try to be prepared to avoid on this show where I don't know something that I should know as a—I don't know.

Sydnee: There is one thing, one cultural osmosed thing you may know from *Happy Days*, which is Fonzi.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: That's—that character.

Raleigh: Okay. Yes.

Sydnee: The cool guy who's, like—

Raleigh: I actually do know that.

Sydnee: —"Hit the jukebox and make it work again."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That's—he's from *Happy Days*.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: It's an old... TV show.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Yeah. It preda—I never watched *Happy Days*.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That is where the expression "Jump the shark" came from. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yes, that's true.

Raleigh: Well.

Sydnee: But that's a whole other thing. [laughs]

Raleigh: Okay. [laughs]

Taylor: That's where—this is—this episode's not about *Happy Days*!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [crosstalk] I wasn't disowned.

Taylor: Complicated, awkward days of youth. Weezer.

Sydnee: But it—it was a cool—it was a cool music video, because it made it look like they were playing for the cast of *Happy Days*.

Raleigh: Oh, okay. Cool.

Sydnee: And it was—and in the song—I mean, it's talking about Buddy Holly, so it's like that time period, so it—you know.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: It was cool, and the song was very catchy. And, uh, that, "Say It Ain't So" and "The Sweater Song" were the ones, I would say, like, made big splashes.

Taylor: Yeah. But, I mean, the whole—like, the *Blue Album* as a whole. Like, it—it really cemented itself as one of those, like—'cause, I mean, the—like—you know. In the world of, like—where Weezer sits, like, kinda punk, it's kinda emo, but, like, when emo doesn't—didn't mean what it became, like, in the 2000's, you know?

Like, it's just that—it's its very own artifact, and it's just deeply nerdy, and it's kind of weird, and I think that's why, like, the *Blue Album* spoke to so many people, because it was just—it was—I mean, the fact that they made a music video set in *Happy Days*. It's like, it was not concerned with being cool. In fact, it was highly concerned with not being cool. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes. Yes. And, I mean, it—and it really—you know, it's weird. I don't know if Weezer can take full credit, but I know that they are at least in part responsible for, like, the way I dressed for a long time.

And I would say there was, like—they were part of that look, which was sort of that nerd rock look that was like—I wore skinny jeans and Chuck Taylors. I started wearing my glasses more instead of contacts. And, like, ironic t-shirts. And it was very much a dress down thing.

Raleigh: Well, this style then carried further into your life, because this is—that is how I would describe your style, from how I remember you.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Most of my young—most of my young life.

Taylor: Still, sometimes?

Raleigh: Maybe still? [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I—I mean... I wear overalls a lot these days, but... [laughs]

Raleigh: That's true.

Sydnee: But the 90's are back, also, so...

Rileigh: So overalls are great.

Taylor: Yeah, it definitely wasn't the first band to have that aesthetic, but it's definitely the one that's most, I think, iconically possessing that aesthetic.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. And it was—it was always fun. I went to a lot of Weezer concerts when I was younger, and the audience at a Weezer show was always great—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —because, like...

Taylor: You knew what show you were at. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: You never doubted. There was no—also, there was no rule—you know how you're not supposed to wear the band t-shirt to the show?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, you can do whatever you want. When I say "not supposed to" I mean, like...

Rileigh: That was, like, the cool concert rule.

Sydnee: Yeah. But, like, not at a Weezer show. [laughs]

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: You wear your Weezer shirt! To show, like, "I'm actually a fan. Look at the concert that I attended!"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, it was more about wearing a more obscure Weezer shirt than everybody else.

Sydnee: Yes! [laughs]

Taylor: Like, wear a shirt from a tour that's slightly older than what everybody else's shirts are.

Sydnee: Exactly, exactly. So, like, that—because that was the nerd angle to it, right? And there was—and I will say, like, it was so—I thought I was so cool. Well, in general I thought I was cool, 'cause I was going to a concert and I was young.

But, like, I thought I was so cool 'cause I was at a Weezer show. And also, people would wanna dance? And everybody—I feel like there were enough of us who were just nerdy enough to dance. But, like, how do you dance to Weezer while you're standing in, like, a stadium at a concert?

Taylor: Shoulders.

Sydnee: You kind of bop.

Taylor: A lot of shoulders, kinda—you know?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: You do some shoulders, and you jump. [laughs] You jump up and down!

Taylor: Which is—I mean, you're pogoing, the classic punk rock dancing. But it's by people that are not—I mean, punk—there's a slight differential between Weezer dancing and punk rock dancing. [laughs]

Sydnee: And you hold your hands up in a W a lot.

Taylor: That—that's a thing, yeah.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] But it was—it was so, like—everybody was looking around like, "Is this o—" and everybody's doin' the same nerdy stuff so it's like, "Okay, cool, cool. Cool, cool. I got it." [laughs] "I get it."

Taylor: Well, and when we got into Weezer it was the year—it was, like, right at the end of the 90's, early 2000's. So, like, in that time frame *Blue* and *Pink* were already out.

We slightly, very slightly got into it before the *Green Album*, because when the *Green Album* came out, like, I think that was, like, my sophomore year? Maybe fresh—like, in freshman, sophomore year, 2001. Um—and, uh, like, that—'cause I remember thinking, like, "Oh, I just got into this band, and now they have another album out!"

Not realizing the idea that, like, Weezer fans had been waiting a long time on another Weezer album after *Pinkerton*. Because what happened between *Blue* and *Pinkerton* is, like, they kind of had a whole sort of—like, Rivers Cuomo went to Harvard for a little while and, like, went into kind of a dark place. Like, started writing a space rock opera that he never finished, and then *Pinkerton* came out of this, and *Pinkerton* was panned.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Critics did not like *Pinkerton*. It was declared one of the—like, you know, readers in Rolling Stones—I think it was Rolling Stones—voted it one of the worst albums of the year. Like, it was just brutalized.

And it's an album that, like, you know, we talked about it. It's weird, it's creepy, but it's also very vulnerable. It's an incredibly hurt, vulnerable album. Um, and so Weezer kind of, like, fell apart for a while after that.

Like, it—so coming back in 2001 with the *Green Album* was—it was—you know, it wasn't just a nice continual stream of pumping out albums. It was after a pretty big, traumatic failure on *Pinkerton*'s part. Like, by then *Pinkerton* had already come back and was now revered as, like, a fan favorite, but...

Sydnee: Sure. Um, I wanna get into a little more about *Pinkerton*, and then the albums that came after, especially eventually the *Teal Album*.

Taylor: [through laughter] You really wanna talk about the *Teal Album*!

Sydnee: I love the *Teal Album*.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Um—[laughs quietly] but before we do that...

Rileigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Uh, the first thing I wanna tell you all about this week on the group message are... my pants!

Taylor: Tell us about your pants!

Rileigh: Tell us about your pants!

Sydnee: [laughs] My pants from Betabrand! Uh, the thing is, when—you know, when you're a rugged outdoors-person like me, but also—

Rileigh: Like ol' Rawhide.

Sydnee: —like all—ol' Rawhide. But also you're a Mom, but also you're a doctor. You gotta have clothes that can get you through the whole day. Um, and also someday I will return to going out to dinner and places like that [holding back laughter] for stylish nights out. Uh, someday.

Uh, but you need pants that are flexible, that are comfortable, that look professional and stylish, but also you can move around in, and Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants have you covered. They're not yoga pants. They just *feel* like yoga pants. But they look and are dress pants.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: So it's like a disguise.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You are—you are disguised as a stylish professional, but secretly...

Taylor: You are comfy. [laughs]

Rileigh: It's like a fun secret for you, yeah.

Sydnee: You are comfortable, yes, that's right. Betabrand has that covered. I have worn Betabrand dress pant yoga pants to work for a long time, and at home. Um, and in my—my whole—my whole life, the whole spectrum, uh, long before I talked about 'em on the show.

Uh, they combine customer experiences with their expertise the make work wear that's as functional, comfortable, and inspiring as your favorite workout gear. They're made of wrinkle-resistant stretch-knit fabric, and it's really true.

I—I usually—I used to be in a hurry to get out of my dress clothes at the end of a work day, just 'cause I was so uncomfortable. I hated the stuff that I felt like I had to wear to work, until Betabrand dress pant yoga pants, and then I felt comfortable gettin' home and, you know, rollin' around on the floor with my kids and hangin' out and cookin' dinner and doin' whatever, um, because I was still comfortable.

So, uh, 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. Find out why people are ditching typical work pants for Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants at betabrand.com/buffering for 25% off.

Raleigh: Now. There is more.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: That—[laughs] speaking of smooth transitions!

Raleigh: But—

Sydnee: Taylor, did you teach Raleigh that one?

Taylor: Now more words happen.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [through laughter] There are more—[laughs] I wanna talk about the Max Fun Drive more!

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: [laughs] Thank you. Talk about the Max Fun Drive.

Raleigh: Um, I wanna talk about some of the cool—cool gifts we have.

Sydnee: That's right. Right now, if you join—uh, become a monthly donating member, you get a gift!

Raleigh: Yes. Um, so first off, \$5 a month you get all the cool bonus content on Max Fun. That's not just this year. That's not just our show or just the shows you listen to. That is every Maximum Fun show's history of all bonus content from all Max Fun Drives past.

We have, um—we did a *My Sister, My Sister, and Me* type advice episode one year. We did D&D with our Mom last year. Um, I think that's what we're doing again this year. We're gonna play more D&D with our Mom.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Yep.

Raleigh: Um, so you get all of that—also for all shows, not just ours.

Sydnee: There's over 200 hours of bonus content.

Raleigh: That's so many hours!

Sydnee: It's so many hours. Don't listen to it all at once.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I mean, you might have the time right now, so...

Raleigh: Well, we all—yeah, we have lots of time.

Sydnee: That's true. You do you.

Rileigh: Um, and then \$10 a month I think is my favorite. Tey, will you talk about the \$10 a month gift? Because—

Taylor: Yeahhh, the \$10 a month gift is super cool. It's our enamel pin. Um, it's a—it's just so cool. It's like a leather—er, it's a denim jacket with our logo on the back, and some cool patches. It's very stylish. Uh, and it was designed by Megan Lynn Kott. So, super cool design. Uh, I might be biased, but I think it's the coolest.

Rileigh: I also think it's the coolest. But, if there are others you like more, there's one for every Max Fun show, and you get to pick whichever one you want.

Sydnee: Uh, there are higher levels of support if you're in a position to give, at \$20 a month or more. Uh, whatever you can give, we are so grateful for. If you're already a member, if you're already donating, thank you for doing that. Uh, your—the money you donate goes directly to the shows that you love. You get to click which shows you listen to when you sign up or when you upgrade.

Um, so if you're listening to us and you click our show, part of that money goes directly to us to help us keep making stuff that we hope you enjoy. Um, you can also—one great thing to know is, there is a boost feature, um, that you can do right now.

If you—let's say you're giving at, like, the \$5 a month level and you're quite in a position to go up to \$10 a month, but you do want to give a little bit more to the shows you enjoy and help support the content you love, um, you can boost a dollar or two. You don't have to necessarily jump up a whole next level.

It doesn't make you eligible for the gifts, but you are helping to participate in the drive, and helping us make the stuff that we think you'll like. Um, and we just want to thank you.

Thank you for listening, thank you for helping, thank you for donating, thank you for sharing our show or telling a friend. If you're not in a position to donate right now but you tell somebody about us, that helps us out.

Taylor: Absolutely.

Sydnee: So, uh, if that is something you want to do, Maximumfun.org/join is the place to go.

Rileigh: Right now.

Sydnee: Right now.

Rileigh: If you want.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Uh, now, Tey, I—you know, I listened to *Pinkerton* most recently again because I was always on the *Blue Album* side of things. Because I feel like as I was listening to 'em and thinking about it, the *Blue Album* was like—like, it hits you at one level, and I feel like it kind of stays there. Like, all the songs are catchy, hooky, they're—you know, it keeps you at a high energy level. I mean, it might drop it a little bit but it picks you right back up.

I can see why something like *Pinkerton*, which I feel like kind of has more ups and downs to it, would not do as well. But *Pinkerton* does definitely take you on more of an emotional journey. And, uh, it's weird to me that the themes of *Pinkerton* didn't connect more with listeners in the 90's. It's a lot of, like... sad lonely guy.

Taylor: [bursts into laughter]

Sydnee: [laughs] Kind of content, you know?

Taylor: You know, I think—'cause there's a lot of sad lonely guy, but it's like the harmless sad lonely guy that deserves good things but doesn't get it—that's on the *Blue Album*.

Pinkerton is weird angry sad creep, and I think that it's—the reason it has longevity is because people recognize it, that that—that there was—there. were things they connected to there, but maybe they didn't like it. I—I know that's kind of how I felt about it. I think that there was a lot of ugliness in *Pinkerton*, and confusion and weirdness that is true, but maybe, you know, you don't want to recognize.

And that it's—to me, they almost operate as, like, two side of the same, like, archetypal nerd, you know? Like, the *Blue Album* and the *Pink Album* where it's like, "Oh, I'm so harmless, and I just make music in my garage, and I'm lovable!"

But it's like, "Yeah, but I'm also insecure, and I'm angry about those insecurities, and I'm blaming other people for them, and I'm weird and I think about weird things."

Like, I think that they're just... they both resonate with people, but *Pinkerton* is a bit more—resonates with your... your dark side, your shadow self. [laughs]

Sydnee: I can see that. Did you come across any songs from *Pinkerton* as you were listening, Raleigh?

Raleigh: Um, I actually think I just listened to the *Blue Album*, now that I'm looking at the songs I listened to, because, like, everyone I would look up—like, "Most popular Weezer songs."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: "Most listened to Weezer songs." They were all, you know, the ones that are the catchy, most well-known ones from the *Blue Album*.

Sydnee: You didn't come across any *Green Album* there?

Taylor: I'm sure you—I'm sure you heard songs off the *Green Album*.

Raleigh: May—probably?

Sydnee: I—I would have to think. "Island in the Sun"?

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: It was an—it was a Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen movie, so I would imagine that that's about the right age for you to listen to "Island in the Sun." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes. I actually—I did hear ones off the *Green Album*, but it's hard, because when I turn on, like, Spotify, what's most listened to, I just kind of listen to the songs and I didn't... I should've taken note of what albums they were from.

Sydnee: It is—well, no, it's okay. I'm just interested 'cause it is weird, like—the *Blue Album* was like—it wasn't hard, but it was cool. And the *Pink Album* was a little harder, and it was cool. And then the *Green Album* came out, and the did the—was it "Keep Fishin'"? Where they had the Muppets in their video?

Taylor: Uhh...

Sydnee: Was that the one?

Taylor: The...

Sydnee: Or was it "Island In The Sun"?

Taylor: No, the Muppets were, um—'cause I thought this was—I thought the Muppets were, like, a *Green Album* song, too. But it was actually later. I just looked at that. Uh...

Sydnee: Was it later? I didn't realize that.

Taylor: It's not—I wanted to say—is it "Keep Fishin'"?

Sydnee: That's what I thought—is that not a *Green Album* song?

Taylor: It's not *Green Album*, yeah. It—

Sydnee: Ahh.

Taylor: —uh, "Keep Fishing" is... is it *Maladroit*?

Sydnee: Wow, okay. That was a *Maladroit* song.

Taylor: "Keep Fishing" is *Maladroit*, yeah. I was surprised, uh, looking back at, like, what I remembered my favorite songs, so many of the more recent songs I had attributed just to the *Green Album*, and there are a lot of songs off *Make Believe* and *Maladroit* that I would say worked their way into, like, my favorite, like, most listenable Weezer songs. But yeah, "Keep Fishin'" was, uh, *Maladroit*.

Sydnee: They came out back to back, didn't they? 2001, 2002. Like, "Dope Nose" was on *Maladroit*.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, they came out right after each other. And "Beverly Hills" was on *Make Believe*, which wasn't til 2005.

Taylor: I know! Well, and then "Pork and Beans" was the *Red Album*, which was—you know, [holding back laughter] the *Red Album* was a whole other thing.

Uh, yeah, no, they came out with an album, like, ev—like, between the—what was that? So '96 for *Pinkerton* and then 2001 for *Green Album*, but then after the *Green Album* they pumped an album every couple years.

Um, and the big thing that happened with that—the return, I'd say, with the *Green Album*, is that the people that loved arguing over which album was better, the *Blue* or the *Pink*, had, you know, held Weezer to such high esteem, really had a problem with the *Green Album*!

Like... it—it was commercial, it was—you know, I remember people saying it's a repeat of the *Blue Album*, they just did what worked because they were—they didn't want to go down the road that, like, *Pinkerton* opened up.

And, like, it was really harsh, but I think that's kind of—it's one of those great cultural examples of something that we now understand is just something that happens, but maybe it was the—one of the biggest occurrence of it, where something's special and it's nerdy and we love it and it's ours, and then when suddenly a bunch of other people find out about it, we have to hate it? Because it—the fact that now it's everybody else's, it's sold out. And, like, I think Weezer—the *Green Album* was their sellout album, which... eh. [laughs]

Sydnee: You know, and it's a weird concept that—Raleigh, I—I would wonder if that kind of idea still exists in that way. The idea that when you become popular you automatically sold out.

Um, I don't know that—'cause, like, that really was a thing for a while where, like, as long as a band wasn't very popular, and they weren't selling out giant auditoriums, and they weren't making a ton of records, when it was just, like, they're barely getting by, they were cool. And then as soon as they became very popular everybody was like, "Psh. Sellout."

Rileigh: See, I think—I think the music I grew up being exposed to and listening to the most of my generation I think was kind of an opposite wave of music. I mean, I think about, like, all the various young teen pop stars and boy bands and stuff that I was listening to in, like, middle school. Um, all of them were popular *because* they were so... popular.

Taylor: Right.

Rileigh: Like, everyone had the posters and the t-shirts and the CD's, and it was like—you wanted to know all the stuff that everyone knew. You didn't wanna be the one that knew this one thing that no one else knew.

It was like, "No, you also just got the Taylor Swift CD that came out this weekend, and you also had, like, the little book that came with it to know all the lyrics to every single song," because then you knew a music video would come out, and then she'd go on tour, and then everyone would go to the concert, and it was like, that was what was popular growing up for me, was everything that was super popular.

It was almost weirder to like things that weren't. Not weirder, but just it was more uncommon to find people that were listening to artists that weren't the most popular.

Taylor: Well, but you also—you're of the age where nerd culture had become mainstream, and, like, cool.

Rileigh: That's true.

Sydney: Yeah.

Taylor: 'Cause that was the big—I think that's the thing that really happened between our generations is, you know—even, like—like, look at—you know, Weezer was kind of emblematic of, like, nerd rock, but everything around that—comic books and, like, anime, and, like, all that stuff, by the time your generation came along it was cool, and that was hard across the board, I think, for our generation. Of, like, we were the nerds.

Like, we were picked on or made fun of or whatever, but this was the cool stuff that we loved that represented us, and now everybody likes it? Now it's everywhere? I don't like that!

Like, you know, I don't—I think that was a big adjustment period, accepting that our nerd culture went mainstream and that, you know, that meant everything sold out, so to speak.

Sydnee: It—well, and, I mean, I think you really saw, like, the—[laughs quietly] it was the transition of Hot Topic.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: From, like, the store that, like, "Oh, I don't shop at *those* stores. I'm not—I wouldn't shop at The Limited or whatever. *I* shop at Hot Topic."

Like, because I'm different, I'm unique, and I'm into other stuff, to the point where it's like, "Oh, did you get that at Hot Topic? Everybody got that at Hot Topic. [laughs] Like, everybody shops at Hot Topic. Like—"

Raleigh: Well, because then everything started being, like, a Hot Topic thing. I mean, it was like, oh my gosh, everything Doctor Who or Adventure Time or Harry Potter even, is just, like, all of it is just... that's Hot Topic stuff.

And then you think about, like, does that mean that this stuff is supposed to be, like, the more niche stuff? Because it's not. But also, like, is it supposed to be the nerd culture stuff? Because everyone... likes it.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: So yeah, it is a more accepting wave of just, like, yeah, everyone's into what you would call nerd culture, I suppose.

Taylor: And even with, like, the Hot Topic thing—'cause for me, I think I was—I was deeper in the pretentious nerd group, I guess, for a lot of my youth.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Because it's like buying a new band t-shirt was lame. It was like, well, then where do you get one? I—I don't know. [through laughter] You just have to have 'em!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Like—like, you know? It's like if you buy one new and it looks new, then you're kinda lame. I—now that I'm, like, in my 30's and I have, like, my old gross band t-shirts and they finally look I guess the way they're supposed to look I'm like, "Well, that—that was a lot of effort [through laughter] to get an old shirt!"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It—well, I mean, it's true, though. Not even—like, all clothes were like that. I mean, I remember going to, like, Goodwill and searching forever for old shirts. Like, I would go with my friends to thrift stores and whatever to look for just old random t-shirts. That was the thing. Like, a t-shirt where you're like, "What does that mean?" Or, "What is that from?"

And you're like, "I don't know, but it's from, like, the 70's, right?" And it's like, "Oh my gosh, it's so old! How cool!" [laughs] Like, anything old and weird was, like, "Whoa, that's so... "

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "... quirky." You know?

Taylor: That kind of—that—I mean, it just is what it is. It was the ironic hipster culture that really proliferated in—like, its roots are in the 90's, but I think it was birthed from that reaction to a lot of that culture going mainstream. And just that, "Well, we have to be even more obscure! We have to be even *more* obscure now!"

And it's like, just—at some point I hope—I hope other people gave up, because I certainly did. I was like, "I'm just gonna like the things I like, I guess?"

But what's funny—because comparing this to Weezer is—Weezer made the *Green Album* because I think it was—to me now in retrospect felt like a return to form. Like, "Oh, this is the kind of music that people like—[stammering] it's peppy, it's fun. It gets a little metal sometimes, which is cool, but, like—"

And that's what they have continued to do. Like, they go off in experimentations, definitely, like the *Red Album's* a very experimental—but there's been—there was

continual push back, you know? There are always—every new Weezer album there's another thinkpiece by some pretentious music writer about "When will Weezer stop?"

It's like, they're just doin' their thing, man! And they're not—after, I think, having—putting your heart on a table, you know, with *Pinkerton*, and serving it up and having it trashed, and then turn back around give years later and everyone's like, "No, now we like it!"

Like, maybe they just kinda went, "Ehh, we're just gonna make music that we like. That's what we're gonna do." [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, and, I mean, I think the fact that they're still able to make music and still have a career as Weezer speaks to the fact, like, people like it. And it is one of those things where, like, everything starts to get—there was such a clear delineation in those first three albums, and everything kinda starts to get fuzzy to me. Which also, that's not reflective of the quality of music. Part of that is reflective of the way we take in music now.

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: We don't, a lot of us, buy CD's. And so of course I absorbed the first three albums as individual, distinct experiences, because I was buying physical CD's to listen to them, and I would put them in my CD player in my room or in my car, and then listen to that album until I got tired of listening to that at that moment and put a different album in. Whereas now, like, you listen to Spotify.

Raleigh: Well, yeah. That's exactly why I didn't know what album's any of 'em came from. I was like, "Well, here are their—you know, the top songs, the ones everyone loves."

I didn't—I didn't even look and see what album they were from.

Sydnee: And that's a tough transition from a time when, like, looking at music as an album, as a piece of art—like, that album having a statement was so important, whereas now I feel like that's less and less—I mean, I'm not saying that doesn't happen. There are certainly that come out where the entire album is the thing.

But there are also just lots of songs that come out, where the song—they're just a collection of songs that you might enjoy that are coming together at this moment, that might have a loose thread but, like—you know, it used to be that an album had to be cohesive, and nowadays it's not as necessary.

Taylor: Well—

Raleigh: I think es—

Taylor: Go ahead.

Raleigh: —I think especially now with albums it's more like, "Well, this is what the next tour is going to be." If I'm gonna see this popular artist in concert, they just came with this album, they're gonna go on tour next year. This is what their show is going to be, listening to this album. There'll be a few other popular songs in there but, like, this is what they're going to be doing.

And I think that's why probably they don't—and I'm not a musician, but it seems like albums, it doesn't matter as much just listening to them what their cohesive element is. It's like, "Well, think about all these songs together, all these individual great pieces of music, all in one, like, experience."

'Cause that's how musicians make money now.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And—well, that's like—I think it's—'cause is you really look at, like, those top songs—like, they all feel very similar, you know? Like, the hits off each album all kind of have that same—they're—they're infectious. Like, they're absolutely earworms. You know, the hook is great.

I mean, that's something that Rivers Cuomo is, like, just I think masterful at. He can design a riff and a hook, and it's just something that's like, "Oh, God, I'm gonna be thinking about that all day."

Uh, but, like, they all—so it's not like they're really going through all these changes, all these, like, stuff that's applied to the band about these, you know—like, these different pieces of work as albums. But when you pull off the hits on all of 'em it's like, they're just consistently producing similar but good work. Like... [laughs] there's no massive change.

It's funny, 'cause same sort of dialog, I think, exists around Green Day. As, like, seminal punk band, and then, "Oh, now they're sellouts, 'cause they keep producing... I don't know, likable music?"

It's like, I—

Sydnee: Like—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I mean, that—that's the—that was always the problem with that sort of ethos. Like, down that road lies an eventuality where you can't like anything. Because if anyone else likes the thing you like, then it's, "Oh, they're a sellout, and it's too popular, and it's mainstream," or whatever.

Like, that's the eventual end of that process is, "I don't like anything," because— [laughs quietly] if it is worth liking by one person, it is probably worth liking by two people, and now everybody likes it. And so I—you know, it just doesn't work. Like, just like that—like the stuff you like.

Raleigh: Well, you know what I hadn't realized was Weezer had done a song that I had listened to many times, it was a cover of a song that I had listened to many times, and I don't think it ever registered that it was also Weezer. I knew that, but I hadn't really thought about it. Was, um, the cover of "Lost in the Woods" from *Frozen 2*!

Taylor: Oh yeah!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: That's on the whole album. You have all the covers done by all the bands and popular singers and everything, and they did that song, which is, like, my favorite song from the whole movie! I was looking back through their discography. I was like, "Oh my gosh, that was them!" I knew it was them, but I hadn't thought, like, "Oh, that was Weezer!" [laughs]

Taylor: Oh yeah, it's great, too.

Rileigh: It's also—yeah, it's great.

Taylor: I mean, speaking of covers... Syd. [laughs]

Sydnee: The *Teal Album*. The *Teal Album*. I—the thing that I loved about the *Teal Album* so much is that it wasn't—it was all covers, and they're—you know, they're covers done pretty true to the songs. Like, they're not—they're not necessarily, like—

Rileigh: A new interpretation of it.

Sydnee: Yeah. It's just the songs. Um, and I—for me it was the collection of songs they chose felt, like, personal. And I couldn't—I mean, why? I don't know Weezer. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: They d—I don't know any of 'em, they weren't for me. Why do they feel that way? And it felt very much like when someone would make you a mixtape. And you may have heard every song on that mixtape already. You may already enjoy every song on that—I mean, like in this case pretty much every song on the *Teal Album* I already liked. "Africa" is one of my favorite songs. [laughs] Um—

Taylor: Do you know how the—I mean, I guess how the *Teal Album* was born? But that "Africa" cover, do you—do you know the story behind that?

Sydnee: I thought it was just, like, somebody wanted 'em to. There was, like, a—

Taylor: Yeah, it was, like, a whole online trolling campaign to get Weezer to do a cover of Africa. And... then Weezer came out with it, and in response, Toto did a cover of I think "Buddy Holly," and released it.

Sydnee: Oh, I didn't know that.

Rileigh: Really?

Taylor: Toto did a cover of one of their songs. Um—oh no, they did a cover of "Hash Pipe," sorry.

Sydnee: I gotta look that up.

Taylor: [through laughter] Toto did a cover of "Hash Pipe."

Sydnee: Oh, that's funny.

Taylor: But yeah, so it was just something they were kind of like, you know... trolled into doing. And then they were like, "Well, let's just make a whole album out of this!" [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, and it's great. It's one of my favorite songs anyway. And then it was great. And then, like... that's really what it felt like to me. It felt like Weezer—and I think that is because I've had this, like, long relationship with the band—

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Well, I mean—

Raleigh: Yeah, I know what you mean.

Sydnee: —you know what I mean. I've had this—I've had this—from a time in my life where I was young and impressionable, I've had this long relationship with Weezer.

Uh, I feel like—I've listened to some of the songs to know—I don't know exactly what your circumstances were when you wrote this, but I know it was intensely personal. I can tell this was personal. I can tell this was—there's a whole story around this song that I don't know any of the details of, but I feel that it's there, and I feel that about them so much that I feel close to them.

And so when this album came out, it felt like they sent out a mixtape and said, "Here are things that I care about and things that I love, and I wanna show 'em to you."

And that, to me, is always so endearing. It's what makes mixtapes so endearing, right? "Here's—I love these things, and now I want to show them to you." And there's something so intimate about that exchange. Maybe that's just a generational thing.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: But I—I—

Raleigh: I get it, yeah.

Sydnee: —I felt that about the *Teal Album*. Like, here are these things that matter to me. They're like, "I'm opening my little... secret treasure box to show you." And... I don't know. I just—it really connected with me on that level. And, I mean, they're good songs. They're just good—yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I think that the band struggled to, like... make the music they wanna make, and really kinda weed out all of the other stuff that was telling them what they should be, what's expected of them. I think that that's a parallel struggle that we all go through, and I think that's why so many of us related to it, you know?

That there is that—that—you come out the other side and you have to learn how to be yourself. I mean, there's one of their albums that they actually, uh—they released their, like, developing singles on the internet for fans to give feedback to. Like, this was their way, I think, of trying to, like, "Well, we can't make them happy, so what if we make them a part of it?"

But the there was so—there was no agreement from anybody that was interacting with their media, so they just threw it all out and were like, "Never mind! No! You guys are bad at this! We're good at this!" [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: But I think that's—'cause to me, the song that really, like, meant a lot to me in their later albums was off the *Red Album*, was the—it's the—the only thing that they have actually ever won a Grammy for is the music video for "Pork and Beans." Um—

Sydnee: Really?

Taylor: —which came out in 2008, yeah. And it's a great video, Rileigh. I think you'd love it, 'cause it's a lot of early YouTube stars they got in it. Um, and it—they're—

Rileigh: Oh!

Sydnee: Oh yeah, I remember this, yes.

Taylor: And they're not, like, cool YouTubers, you know? They're, like, YouTube videos that we liked because the people were—like, we were equal parts kind of making fun of the people in the videos, but it was also, like, funny. Like Chris Crocker, the "Leave Britney alone—"

Rileigh: More of like a—

Taylor: —person.

Rileigh: —yeah. Like a viral video, not necessarily like a career YouTuber, I guess.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Rileigh: Okay.

Taylor: And, like, that's—so they have—they bring all of these people on and, like, have them redo their videos. It's a great video. Uh, and then the song itself is literally just, like, you know, "I don't—I'm gonna do the things that I wanna do, I don't have a thing to prove to you, one look in the mirror and I'm tickled pink, I don't give a hoot—" I love that they say "I don't give a *hoot* about what you think."

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: But it's very much—I feel—like, to me it felt like kind of a period on, like, all of that back and forth from the *Green Album* forward. And they're just like, "Yeah, we're gonna do our stuff. [through laughter] This is—we're—we don't care. We're gonna have fun. We're gonna be weird. Some of you are gonna not like it. Some of you will. This is just what we do."

And to me, that was like... I think around the same time that I was sort of coming to terms with my own, like—I don't—I'll never be, like, you know, obscure enough to pass the hipster obscurity test, and I'm fine with that. 'Cause I'm gonna just enjoy the things I enjoy.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think that was a nice encapsulation of the story of Weezer.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: What you just said. I really do. I do think that's it, and I think that's the—the lovable thing about Weezer is that they come out the other end still Weezer, and... and I still love 'em. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: And there—there will always be people that will define themselves around not liking Weezer or having a problem with Weezer, but I'm just glad that I'm not one of them. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Ah, when you're important enough as an artist, there will always be people who define themselves by their dislike for you.

Rileigh: It's true.

Sydnee: So.

Taylor: Like, if you can say—if you some—at some point have a career that leads you to get to perform with the Muppets, like, you made it. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah, really.

Sydnee: That's true. That's what I was gonna say. When they performed with the Muppets, I always think of that as people like, "Ugh, Weezer used to be so cool, and now they're with the Muppets."

And in my mind I'm thinking, "The Muppets are so cool!"

Rileigh: [simultaneously] "How Cool!" [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Like, that's when you've made it! You've made it when you get to hang with the Muppets. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, and they've also been part of some of the best, like, tours I can think—I mean, for—for—like, big name tours. But, like, that—when they toured with the Foo Fighters, and it was the—

Sydnee: Foozer?

Taylor: —Foozer and Wee Fighters. [laughs]

Sydnee: I saw the Foozer tour. It was amazing!

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Amazing.

Taylor: They traded off, like, who would open and who would close, like, at different shows. It was such a cool idea.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Didn't we see...

Sydnee: And they toured with Jimmy Eat World, [holding back laughter] a similarly impactful and lasting band.

Taylor: Oh, you know that tour, it was Jimmy Eat World and Tenacious D... and Weezer.

Sydnee: It was, it was!

Taylor: That's who—what a great lineup. What a specifically late 90's early 2000's lineup. [laughs]

Sydnee: It was. I shouldn't throw shade. I—at the time I really enjoyed Jimmy Eat World, and Tenacious D at the time, but it was a—that was also a great show.

Taylor: But you know, Jimmy Eat World—I don't— It's not what we're talking about, but, like, they had albums—but, I mean, everyone—*Bleed American* was the big one that everybody knew. But, like, uh, they actually were, like, underground darlings long before that.

And kind of had a similar problem where they went mainstream, but they had a dedicated fanbase that liked them for not being mainstream. So, you know, they actually have a similar story, just on a smaller scale.

Sydnee: Yeah. Rileigh's goin' "I have no idea what these—"

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Tenacious D has Jack Black—

Rileigh: Yes, I knew that.

Sydnee: Okay, alright. [laughs]

Rileigh: I knew that one was the one with Jack Black. That's all I could tell you about them, but I knew that.

Sydnee: [laughs] He's the Kung Fu Panda.

Rileigh: Yes, he is the—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: That's not how I knew Jack Black.

Taylor: Is that your reference point [through laughter] for Jack Black?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I actually first saw him in *School of Rock*, thank you. [laughs]

Taylor: Okay, alright.

Sydnee: Fair enough, fair enough.

Taylor: Well, we made you watch *High Fidelity*, so you see him there.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's true.

Raleigh: That's true, that's true.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, thank you, Taylor, for letting us talk about Weezer. I love Weezer.

Taylor: Thank you for listening to Weezer with me, and joining me.

Sydnee: I'm gonna listen to more.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You should listen to *Pinkerton* and see what you think, Raleigh.

Raleigh: I will.

Sydnee: To see where you come down on that.

Raleigh: We'll update next week.

Taylor: And—and watch that YouTube video.

Raleigh: I will. That sounds great.

Taylor: It's on YouTube. That sounds silly, but yeah. [laughs]

Raleigh: [through laughter] Okay.

Sydnee: Uh, what's next?

Raleigh: So, I'm next. Um, and I wanna talk about *Glee*. It was one of my favorite shows, no joke. Like, my first real obsession, I think, in TV, growing up. And, um, unfortunately it's been timely recently because of the—the passing of

one if its main characters, Naya Rivera. But it is—it is still a beautiful, great show, and I wanna talk about it

Sydnee: Alright. I think—I think this is good. We—we bring things to the show that not everybody always loves.

Rileigh: Well, no! But, like—

Sydnee: So that's important. [laughs]

Rileigh: —that's the point. I—like, I didn't like it because everyone loved it. It actually was one of the things that I loved so much, and a lot of people I knew were like, "Why do you—that's not—"

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: But I—it was—it was—it was truly an obsession for me.

Sydnee: I was invested in it for a while, so I will say, I did—I did very much like it for a while, and I kinda fell off.

Rileigh: Yes. The important parts are, I would say, in the first, like, three seasons.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Four seasons. But yeah.

Taylor: Well—

Sydnee: Alright.

Taylor: —I've never seen an episode before, so here we—

Rileigh: [gasps]

Sydnee: [gasps]

Taylor: —here we go.

Raleigh: Whoaaa!

Taylor: Here we go.

Raleigh: This is perfect.

Sydnee: Oh my gosh. I do not—Taylor, I do not know what you're gonna think of *Glee*! [laughs]

Raleigh: I am so—the only reason I can rewatch it now is because I've already seen it all, but [through laughter] to think about you watching it for the first time in 2020—oh my gosh. It's so good.

Sydnee: Alright, Tey. You're in for a ride.

Raleigh: Oh man.

Taylor: Here we go. I—I know that there are covers, and there are—

Raleigh: Oh, so many.

Taylor: —there's a high school. That's all that—I know that—that much. So let's just get into it. [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh... [laughs quietly] Alright! Real quick, um, before we go, uh, I wanted to one more time remind you that it is the Max Fun Drive. Uh, the one time of year where we come and say hey, if you like what we do, if you wanna continue to support the content that you enjoy, please donate if you can. Please become a member if you can.

Um, there are multiple monthly donation levels. Uh, whatever you can do is a huge help. \$5, \$10, you can use the boost feature if you want to upgrade, but you can't upgrade all the way to the next level, to go somewhere in between.

That is—all of it helps. Every little bit you do helps. It helps us make the show, make the show better, make the show more consistently, improve the quality of our show and the time we can put into the show. Um, it's changed, I know, all three of our lives.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, the donations, the members have helped us—

Taylor: Absolutely.

Raleigh: Very much so.

Sydnee: —produce more stuff, more art, more content, more things to put into the world.

Taylor: Survive when the restaurant industry closes due to a pandemic. [laughs]

Sydnee: Exactly. Literally helping Taylor survive.

Taylor: [through laughter] Thank you!

Sydnee: So thank you, thank you, thank you. For everybody who supports our show, for everybody who's a member, thank you so much. If you can join right now, please do. MaximumFun.org/join. Um, and if you can't, tell a friend about our show. Share a link. You know—

Raleigh: We're on Twitter.

Sydnee: Yeah, we're on Twitter.

Raleigh: Stillbuff.

Sydnee: @stillbuff. We're, uh—you can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, but if you can tell a friend about our show, that helps us too, so.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Thank you for everything you do. And, uh, thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays in the background]

Sydnee: Oh, Tey. I hope you're ready to—

Raleigh: Oh, gosh. I cannot believe [unintelligible]

Taylor: Oh, do they—they—they sing that song.

Raleigh: Oh, they do! [laughs]

Sydnee: Ohh, they sing that song!

Taylor: Oh no. That's a *good* song.

[theme music plays]

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