

## Still Buffering 224: Taylor Swift "Folklore" (2020)

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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:** Well, how are you all doing today? [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** That's a funny question.

**Sydnee:** I feel like—

**Raleigh:** Hmm...

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I feel—that felt very weird.

**Raleigh:** [quietly] How am I?

**Sydnee:** I think I almost slipped into doctor mode there. "Well, tell me what's goin' on."

**Raleigh:** "How are you feeling today?"

**Sydnee:** "How are you feeling today?"

**Taylor:** It just seems like... I feel like the question of, "How are you?" is almost offensive right now in the world. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** It's like, "What do you think?!"

**Raleigh:** I feel like I have lived this day...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** —every day, for the past five months. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Yep.

**Taylor:** It's *Groundhog's Day*, but much worse. I don't think there was a plague in that movie.

**Sydnee:** No, that's very true. I have—I have had similar feelings. The days just sort of melt together, 'cause they're all—

**Raleigh:** And now I have to start school? And I'm like, "I haven't used my brain in almost half a year." I had a sign a document the other day and I forgot how to sign my name! [laughs quietly] I hadn't picked up a pen in months!

**Sydnee:** I'll tell you, uh, what threw me for a loop... 'cause everything seems odd and off right now, and I'm always desperate for, like, new information to enter my brain, because I get so much—so little new sensory input. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause I'm in the same places and situations all day, every day.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, and I was standing at the stove yesterday cooking dinner, and Charlie came running up to me, and literally tugged on my shirt, which feels very, like, something out of a movie or something.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. That's what kids always do in the movies. Like, pull on the bottom of your shirt.

**Sydnee:** "Mama, mama!" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like, that's not typical of my children. Like, tugged on my shirt and was like, "Mommy! I have something to tell you."

And I was like, "What? What is it?"

She goes, [gravely] "The Chipmunks are back."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, actual chipmunks?

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] And I said, "What?"

**Raleigh:** There are chipmunks here. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She said, "They have a new movie..."

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** "... and a new TV show. The Chipmunks are back."

[through laughter] And I went, "Okay?" And I started to laugh, and she went, "No, Mom! I'm serious!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "They're back!"

**Taylor:** Is it like a—like a gritty Chipmunk reboot? Is that what we're getting?

**Sydnee:** I didn't know they were back! I didn't know—

**Raleigh:** I didn't know they were back.

**Sydnee:** I—well, and I don't know where this came from! 'Cause she was sitting in the living room drawing, like, coloring. It wasn't like she was watching TV or, like, YouTube or something to find this information. She was just sitting there quietly—

**Raleigh:** She remembered.

**Sydnee:** —like, humming to herself and coloring, and all of a sudden out of nowhere she jumped up and ran to me to give me this information that the Chipmunks are back.

**Raleigh:** Are we sure this is true?

**Sydnee:** I—no! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Did she just maybe, like, imagine it or have a dream about it, or.. hope it was true or something?

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] I don't—

**Taylor:** Transmitted into her brain. I—that's... huh.

**Raleigh:** Um... wow.

**Sydnee:** They do—I will say, kids do that sometimes. Like, Cooper came up to me yesterday and went, "We're going to Disney World!"

And I went, "Oh—no? We're not."

**Raleigh:** "We're not." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** But—but, like, you don't want to say that to a two-year-old! You're like, "Yay! N—no! What? What are you... why do you think..." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Man. You know, there are some times where I feel old when I'm on TikTok, and I feel like I'm in the wrong generation. This is related, I promise. Um, to be on TikTok. And one of them was the other day, when I saw someone who looked like they were probably five or six years younger than me, posting about how they couldn't believe if you took the Chipmunks' music from, like, the most recent reboot, from, like, a few years ago, and slow it down... it just sounds like the real people who voice the Chipmunks. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't think that's an—

**Raleigh:** There was all these—all these kids, like, "[through laughter] Wait, it's not just people with high-pitched voices?"

**Sydnee:** Oh no.

**Taylor:** Oh no. I was gonna say, I don't think that's a generational confusion. I think that's just some particularly uninformed person, but I guess...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, okay. Well...

**Raleigh:** They couldn't believe it. They were like, "This old movie." And I was like, "No, that's not an old movie! Oh no!"

**Sydnee:** Oh no!

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um, I am fascinated by the fact that, uh... 'cause my children really enjoy the YouTube videos that are people on YouTube doing TikTok food hacks. Which is like, it's so many layers here.

**Raleigh:** Very meta.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, these YouTubers watch the TikTok food hacks, and then make a YouTube video where they play a little segment of the TikTok video, and then also do the food hack themselves.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Which I guess kids prefer to the original? Well, I won't let—my kids aren't on TikTok. Maybe that's why. Maybe they would prefer the TikToks.

**Raleigh:** Well, there's also, like, the quirky YouTubers that are like, "Oh my gosh, 5-Minute Crafts, this is impossible! Like, you made it look so easy and I can't do it!"

'Cause then it's silly.

**Sydnee:** I like watching them because they all have such nice kitchens.  
[laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** They do! Almost without fail, like, all these YouTubers—which I imagine is a result of, like, being very popular on YouTube.

**Raleigh:** YouTube money.

**Sydnee:** But they have very nice kitchens in which to try these—I mean, some of them truly atrocious—

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** —food monstrosities that they are—that they're—but, like, they're the same ones, is the thing that confuses me. I've watched so many different YouTubers make that egg sandwich that you make all of it in a pan.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** By, like—

**Raleigh:** And then just flip it over.

**Sydnee:** —and flipping it over and folding it. I've watched them all try to make Skittles popcorn.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** They're all over that. They can't do that right. They keep trying it with M&M's, and then it just melts into a big burnt mass. And I'm like, "Well, yes. You just put M&M's in a hot pan." [pause] I don't know. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** What's—the—

**Taylor:** I don't—it—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —it—there's a—there's a—a—I don't—people that the—the things that are entertaining on YouTube and, like, people find funny, and I find them funny too, they really make me question, like, sometimes when I really try to come up with, like, a good joke. And then I think, "I don't know."

People laugh at burnt Skittles. Like, what—why am I trying? [through laughter] What does it mean?"

**Raleigh:** The one that baffles me most is one that I saw on TikTok the other day that said, "Here's a hack - you can make your own everything but the bagel seasoning," like that one from Trader Joe's that has all the stuff that comes on an everything bagel. And they just listed all the components... of everything bagels. [holding back laughter] And got them separately, and then mixed them together in one jar. And I was like, "Yeah, if you take, like, poppy seeds and, you know, garlic powder or whatever is in these things and you mix 'em together..."

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Yeah, I mean, but then you still got—

**Raleigh:** "... that's... the same thing, and also more expensive than just buying... [through laughter] a bottle of the seasoning!"

**Sydnee:** Well, that's what I don't—I don't understand. Like, that—one of the hacks we were watching was just, like, a cake recipe.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And it's like, well, yes, you made a—congratulations! [laughs] You've made a cake!

**Raleigh:** This is not a hack! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's—that's not a hack! That's not—that's just a cake. Which is great, I like cake. But it's not a hack. Sometimes I don't know what they're hacking.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Yeah.



**Raleigh:** Like when they make flip-flops out of hot glue. And you're like, "What is—what are you—what is—what corners are being cut here?" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I know. [laughs] I know. I didn't know this was a thing I was supposed to do, let alone hack!

**Taylor:** I think some of those videos are just nice places for your brain to rest and feel slightly accomplished having watched it, [through laughter] and then there's no useful information there.

**Raleigh:** There—there was a moment where I saw one where they made this atrocious jeans chair, where they took a bunch of pairs of, like, jeans, and stuffed them?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And then sewed the bottoms of the legs together, and then sewed all the tops together into one big seat, so it looked like a big bean bag chair that had a back to it that was made of stuffed legs of jeans.

**Sydnee:** Was this 5-Minute Crafts?

**Raleigh:** This was 5-Minute Crafts.

**Sydnee:** Okay, of course it was.

**Raleigh:** And I saw this, and there was a solid minute in my head where I sat there thinking, "How many pairs of jeans do I have from a long time ago that I've never worn? How many old pairs of jeans do I have that I can do this with? Do I have enough? Should I do this? Do I wanna do this?" [laughs quietly] I almost did it! I didn't.

**Sydnee:** I would like to say that that violates—I have found that this is true about 5-Minute Crafts a lot. They violate their title.

**Raleigh:** They're not five minutes.

**Sydnee:** They're not five minutes consistently, and sometimes they are not crafts.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** And I don't know what—I don't know what is happening, then. "Here's an hour long thing you could do." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Right? I would argue it takes way more than five minutes to gather six pairs of jeans, stuff them with pillow stuffing, sew the bottoms and tops, and then staple all of them together into a chair. It's also not gonna work! [laughs]

**Taylor:** I feel like if I walked into somebody's apartment and that was in there, I would just—

**Raleigh:** [laughs loudly]

**Taylor:** "I need to leave! Who—who was wearing those pants, and where are their bodies?!"

**Raleigh:** Can you—

**Sydnee:** [laughs] That's exactly like—when you show that, when you have your Zoom get-together with your friends and be like, "Look at what I did, guys!"

And they're like, "Are you okay?"

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] "Okay?" Can you imagine the person's house where they, like, do all of these, or the set—

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] No!

**Raleigh:** —and it's just, like, entirely covered in all of these crafts.

**Sydnee:** I mean, yes. Watch Troom Troom. There it is. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's true, yeah. Oh my gosh, Troom Troom. Anyways, we're not talking about Troom Troom and 5-Minute Crafts today, although we probably should at some point. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Wait. I had a question, though, 'cause I don't think we ever resolved this, 'cause we started talking about the Chipmunks. Before we move on to our actual topic—

**Raleigh:** Oh, yeah.

**Taylor:** —there are three chipmunks. They are siblings. What—what is our—our—who are we? Which is your chipmunk? Which is... how do we break this down between us?

**Raleigh:** Well, see, normally I would say, do we just go by age? But I feel like in this case that doesn't... apply.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Raleigh:** 'Cause Sydnee, I feel like you have to be the one with—you have to be Simon.

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk] Simon. I—I—like, I was gonna start making cases, but I feel like—do I have to be Simon? Is that... necessary?

**Taylor:** Well, I don't know, though, because... I feel like there's—I mean—

**Raleigh:** I feel like it's fair to say that I'm a Theodore. I feel like that's fair.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Why are—

**Raleigh:** I think that's fair.

**Sydnee:** —why are you Theodore?

**Raleigh:** I don't know. He's just, like, the—the small one.

**Taylor:** [bursts into laughter] The small one!

**Raleigh:** He's small—the small cute one who doesn't like—he's just—his whole thing is being the small one. And, like, my whole—this whole thing is kind of based around me [through laughter] being the small one!

**Sydnee:** He's very loving and nurturing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** Likes to take care of animals, that's a thing. I mean, he is an animal, too, but—you know.

**Raleigh:** Well, he is an animal.

**Sydnee:** But he also is, like, a—he's nonconfrontational, he wants everybody to get along and be kind.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Are these you? [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Is that me?

**Taylor:** See, I don't know! That's what I was—I would—now when you say that I'm like, I don't know. Raleigh, are you Alvin, and I'm Theodore? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Am I Alvin?!

**Sydnee:** I was gonna say, that might be...

**Raleigh:** Is that more accurate? I don't know.

**Sydnee:** Maybe.

**Raleigh:** Wait, do we even know how old all of them are? They're chipmunks. Why'd I always—I just always assumed Alvin was the oldest and Theodore was the youngest.

**Sydnee:** I always assumed Simon was the oldest.

**Raleigh:** Really?

**Taylor:** Same.

**Raleigh:** It's the glasses.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** He's also taller.

**Raleigh:** The oldest one always has the glasses. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] That's how you can tell maturity in a chipmunk.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** [laughs] When they start wearing glasses.

**Sydnee:** Have they developed their glasses yet?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [sighs]

**Sydnee:** Uh—

**Rileigh:** Anyways, we're talking about—there's no transition.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** We're talking about Taylor Swift's new album. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** That's right, yes.

**Rileigh:** Um, Taylor Swift gave us all a gift this quarantine, of a full album. And not just, like, a few songs, like an EP. Like, a 16—I think 16 song album that she entirely wrote and recorded and produced in quarantine, um, that came out about two weeks ago, and it's called *Folklore*.

And I think it is, I think, her best album as a whole that she has made, because I think—we have talked about this when we have talked about music before, but a lot of recent music, the albums aren't based around, like, being one whole thing to be listened to together, like they used to be when you would have to buy, like, CDs and stuff. It's more singles that they would release, and then a whole body of work.

But this feels like an album that is meant to be listened to as one whole thing.

**Sydnee:** More like Beyoncé's *Lemonade*.

**Rileigh:** Sure, yeah. [laughs quietly] But, like it feels—

**Sydnee:** Well, it is! It's an experience.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, it feels like a story. Like, it feels like—there are times where I enjoy listening to show tunes because I enjoy, like—there's a—there is a story happening here. This is not just, like, some words being repeated. And

this is how I feel about *Folklore*. It is like a story, or a collection of stories. And I find it very relaxing, also.

**Sydnee:** I will say that that is true, 'cause I tried to—I had not listened to any of it before you suggested it, and so, I immediately tried to get Charlie to listen to it with me, because she likes some of Taylor Swift's stuff. Um, and I—had I know kind of the... like, feel of it, I probably wouldn't have done that.

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause she likes the bops.

**Raleigh:** She does. She likes "ME!" and she likes "Shake it Off."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm, love "Shake it Off." Well, there's also that Disney Princess version of "Shake it Off" on YouTube.

**Raleigh:** Hmm, that's true.

**Sydnee:** So periodically when she's singing the Taylor Swift version, she'll break into "Let it Go."

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** That makes sense.

**Sydnee:** But, uh—but she was not as much feelin' this one—

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** —because it definitely is a... slower tempo, calmer, more laid back.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Than the bops.

**Raleigh:** Um, that's—there was a whole debate over, is it eligible for an indie album award at the Grammy's next year instead of pop, because normally she's a pop artist, and those are the awards she's won before, after she was country. Um, but technically... there are people who know these things and study these things and what guidelines there are for indie music and pop music and beats per minute and all that stuff. I don't get any of it. I don't know about any of it.

**Sydnee:** Are there?

**Raleigh:** But apparently this is an indie album. Yeah, it's a whole thing where you can find, like, the exact tiny subgenre of each album based on... I don't know, like, lyrics and type of music and types of instruments used, and... yeah.

**Sydnee:** See, according to *Trolls: World Tour*...

**Raleigh:** [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Okay, continue.

**Taylor:** Oh, alright.

**Raleigh:** I want you to think about...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** ... the preface to that sentence for a second, and then continue.

**Taylor:** But I think I know where this is going. Go ahead. [laughs]



**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Pop music... just steals from all the other genres.

**Raleigh:** Whoa.

**Sydnee:** And includes a catchy hook, uh, with their music, but is really just sampling from everybody else's music. That's what *Trolls: World Tour* would argue.

[pause]

**Raleigh:** [holding back laughter] Is that their thesis statement?

**Sydnee:** There's a lot about cultural appropriation in *Trolls*—*Trolls: World Tour*!

**Raleigh:** Okay. I guess that's—I guess that's fair.

**Sydnee:** And about the importance of, like, diversity as a quality, as opposed to just, like, we should all be the same, and like each other. [pause]  
[laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't know if that aligns with, like, the history of pop music in development, but it's definitely a good lesson for... children. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It really is interesting! 'Cause they talk about... Poppy keeps saying, "We're all the same," and they keep saying, "We're not all the same, but that's okay."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** We shouldn't all be the same.

**Raleigh:** That's an important lesson.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I—I—

**Sydnee:** Anyway. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I do like that Ms. Swift, you know—obviously, when she started, she was country, and then kind of transitioned to pop, and people were angry about that, because people get angry about dumb things that young girls do.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And, uh, then now she's—it's very much an indie album, very folksy. I mean, it's called *Folklore*. But, like, I like that Taylor Swift throughout her career has just been like, "I'm gonna do this now, and now I'm doin' this."

And it's like—it's—you know. It's another just very accomplished album in another category, uh, that I think she has every right to be in. But it's definitely a departure.

**Raleigh:** It's a—I know we talked about this when we talked about the documentary about her, but she was under that record label for such a long time where she felt like she had to, you know, fit the perfect mold of, like, the teen pop star who didn't talk about politics and didn't talk about anything else except the music she had written.

Um, and I appreciate that this is a lot more, like—there are moments in this album where you're like, "Oh, this is a dig at the people she used to work for, and that own her music now, and took it from her." And I don't know, it's—it's very good. Very different.

**Sydnee:** And she's definitely more outspoken politically. I see her, um, political tweets retweeted often.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Um, I also appreciate that. But, uh, I do like that this—she said, and I assume you all listened to the whole thing, um—after it came out, she said there are three songs in the album that she did not name, but she said three of them, she sees as the three different perspectives of three people in a teenage love triangle, and she had written one of them—

**Sydnee:** I had read about that.

**Raleigh:** —mm-hmm, from each perspective. Um, and I think that's really cool that she, like, literally took stories that she had come up with, not even things that she had experienced, and then wrote multiple songs. Like, it was literally a whole story in music.

**Sydnee:** Which again speaks to, like, that kind of folk music.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, the idea that music is just telling people's stories.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know? Not necessarily the artist's themselves but, like, music as a way to just communicate this one tale, and then move on.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, that, uh—that goes into the confusion around Betty, right? I think everybody kind of jumped the gun, got a little excited that maybe this was, uh—gay Taylor Swift, but it's not, right?

**Raleigh:** I—I also did the—I was guilty—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** —of the same thing the first time I listened to it. I was, like, listening the night it came out, and Betty came on, and I was laying in my bed, and I just sat up and went, "[gasps loudly] Oh my God!" [laughs]

But no. Um, she is—and if you listen to it, then you—it—she—yeah, it's not from the perspective of another girl, but man, I got excited.

**Sydnee:** I know, you tweeted about it and people were like, "Welcome to the—" what did they call it? The Gaylor—

**Raleigh:** The Gaylor—the Gaylor Swift...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** ... uh, community.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Like, a whole, like, [laughs] stan Twitter community of people who've always believed that Taylor is, like, secretly bi, I guess, and all the hints in her music about it.

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** Um, but no. That is—

**Sydnee:** I mean, I have no idea, but I don't think that's what that song was. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** No.

**Raleigh:** That is one of the three of that triangle, and it's from the perspective of a teenage boy, to this girl that he hurt and, I guess, cheated on maybe? Um, to Betty, and it's from his perspective, but Taylor's singing it. Um, but that also... Easter egg, revealed the name of Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively's third daughter. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Just, you know, just—if you didn't know.

**Taylor:** Now, did they approve of that? Because I wanna—that is the weirdest way to, like, announce a baby name ever. So, Taylor Swift put it in her new album secretly. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Apparently they did, because also—and I am guilty of not having heard this song. I think it was a song from her album *Reputation*. They used—Taylor Swift used a recording of one of their daughters' voices saying something as, like, an audio clip at the very beginning of one of her songs in the album.

**Sydnee:** Ah.

**Raleigh:** So, like, I guess they've allowed her to, like, do these things sneakily in her music every now and then, 'cause they're close friends, but everyone freaked out, because the only two other names in the song "Betty" are James and Inez, and those are the two names of their two daughters. And they were like, "Yep, that's—there's Betty. That's our baby." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** See, I—I saw that trending, and I was so confused about all of it. I was like, "Is this another weird conspiracy theory, or is this—"

**Raleigh:** It is a very weird announcement.

**Sydnee:** It is—it is weird. And, um—but then there were all these companion articles like, "Well, they're friends! Look, here are all these pictures of them all hanging out." And so I was like, well, I mean, they must've known.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** That's a...

**Sydnee:** [laughs] This was a weird place for my brain to rest for a while last week! Like, what am I reading? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It's a weird space to dedicate your energy to.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I also spent a lot of time thinking about when... [laughs quietly] referring to her by her first name, when Betty grows up, and is like, "Hey, listen. Fun fact about me. Not only are my parents, you know, Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds... my name was revealed to the world in a Taylor Swift song." That's, like, her icebreaker fun fact forever.

**Sydnee:** Although, you know, the tough thing is for Betty, like, everybody'll already know that for Betty.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** That's true, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And then they'll just start singing the song.

**Sydnee:** I'm not gonna sit here and bemoan being, like, the child of [laughs] famous people. But, like, you know, everybody's always gonna know that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, it's true. Um, I wanna talk more about Taylor Swift, and this album, specifically.

**Sydnee:** But before we do that...

**Raleigh:** Let's check the group message.

--

**Sydnee:** So, uh, I mentioned that I was cooking.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** When I got the late breaking news story from my daughter that The Chipmunks are back. [holding back laughter]

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Um, and what was I cooking? Well, I was cooking a HelloFresh, because it's hard to come up with a bunch of different recipes to cook from home. I know a lot of us are doing a lot more of that these days, cooking from home. We still do a lot of takeout, try to support local businesses. But also, you wanna cook, you know? You wanna make stuff, and you wanna make things you enjoy, and you wanna make, for me, things that, like, the whole family will like.

Um, but I don't always know, like, a ton of different recipes or, like, "Oh my gosh, I don't wanna go to the store again to get more ingredients, so how do I do that?"

Um, and HelloFresh has got your back, 'cause they can deliver fresh, pre-measured ingredients, along with some sort of seasonal recipe that maybe you've never thought to try, or had any familiarity with, right to your door. They are America's number one meal kit, because they've got something for everybody.

They've got low calorie options, they've got vegetarian options, they have family friendly recipes if you're trying to do what I've been trying to do, which is get the whole fam eating the same thing. That's been my big

challenge during this quarantine time, is all four of us eating the same thing. Not, like, "Here's some chicken nuggets for the kids." And HelloFresh really helps me do that.

Uh, there's less for you, less food waste, because everything comes pre-proportioned, so you're not throwing away all of, like, the cilantro or whatever you didn't use. And, uh, HelloFresh donated over 2.5 million meals to charity in 2019, and this year is stepping up their food donations amid the coronavirus crisis.

So, you can feel really good about supporting this company and getting this great—all these great ingredients to make something really delicious for you and your family and—or friends, or—well... family. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Family.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Right now.

**Taylor:** You can cook some HelloFresh over a Zoom together. There you go.

**Sydnee:** Hey, that's a great idea, Tey!

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** Tey, if our listeners wanna check out HelloFresh, what should they do?

**Taylor:** Uh, you can go to [hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering](https://hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering) and use code "80stillbuffering" to get a total of \$80 off, including free shipping on your first box! Additional restrictions applies. Please visit [hellofresh.com](https://hellofresh.com) for more details. That's [hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering](https://hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering). Use code "80stillbuffering."

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**Rileigh:** So, there's a song on this album I wanna talk about, 'cause I think it is so cool.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** Just from a songwriting perspective. I don't think it's my favorite, like, musically, on the album. I still enjoy it very much. But there is a song called "The Last Great American Dynasty" on this album.

**Sydnee:** I liked that one. That one, uh—that one caught my attention.

**Rileigh:** Well, as I was listening to it the first time—this was, like, the night it came out, so I had no idea what any of these songs were about. Um, there was a woman – I had to look this up – named Rebekah Harkness, who used to live in Taylor Swift's mansion home in Rhode Island.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Mansion home.

**Rileigh:** Mansion home.

**Taylor:** Ah, mansion home. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** But she—

**Sydnee:** [laughs] You know how we all have a mansion home?

**Rileigh:** The mansion home.

**Taylor:** Yeah, mansion home. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** I'm sorry, I don't have a mansion home! [through laughter] I don't know the proper terminology!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Um, but, uh—it's the true story of this woman, told through Taylor Swift's perspective. And basically, this Rebekah Harkness married into an upper class family. She was hated by the town, and then her husband had died, and they blamed her for his death. She was the heir to this big oil company, and then there was some decline in the company because of... whatever. Economy.

But they blamed her, because she was, like, not supposed to be in this upper class, great American dynasty family. Um, and she compares herself to her a lot throughout the song, talking about, like, here is this woman who is hated for basically no reason throughout her career, and now I am in her house, and now I have experienced the same things.

I think that's so cool! 'Cause it's—it's a real story, and she's talking about this woman that used to live in her house, and these connections she feels to her, even though, like, she didn't know her. But the stories and how they intertwine, um... And I think that's just a really cool way of incorporating, you know, real folklore into an album called *Folklore*.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I think that is cool. I didn't know—I didn't know if it was based on a real story. It sounded—it sounded too concrete for me to assume that it wasn't, but I hadn't looked into it. But that is—that song caught my attention, 'cause I think it's a—it can also be read as an interesting commentary on... you know. What a great American anything—

**Taylor:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** —is—what makes it, you know? Including a dynasty. Um, and some of the darker parts of that, and the nastier parts of that.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Um, kind of concept. So, yeah. I thought it was nice. In the light of her new kind of political... um, I don't wanna say "stance," 'cause I assume it was always her political stance. But, like, being so outspoken.

**Rileigh:** Her publicized political stance.

**Sydnee:** Exactly.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um, I think you also see that—there's a song that is my favorite called "Mad Woman" on the album that, uh, a lot of people were comparing to her song, "The Man," from her last album.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um, which very, like, obviously calls out toxic masculinity and misogyny in the music industry, and in the world as a whole. Um, but "Mad Woman" is talking about, you know, you hate this madwoman, isn't it a shame she went mad? But also, like, you made her that way and, you know, this is how people talk about women that they think have quote, unquote, "gone crazy," or whatever.

And it's—from what I would interpret, it's about the men who took her music and then, like, have said all these horrible things about her being controlling or manipulative or whatever. Um, because, I mean, they literally took her IP, and her music, and her work, um, and took advantage of that. And then she is coming at 'em again. Like, you know?

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** "This is what you get, because you took that from me."

**Sydnee:** Sure. Which is an important trope to, like, always combat the idea that when a woman displays emotion—especially, like, angry, you know, being upset about something, that it's always like, "Ugh."

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know? [laughs quietly] "Oh, of course. You're just angry."

**Rileigh:** Right. An emotional woman.

**Sydnee:** And I should say, which is hard for women in general, but is, like, doubly hard for women of color, and especially Black women get that...

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** ... kind of like, stereotypical label, any time they try to speak out passionately about anything that matters.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, I thought it was interesting that—as I was kind of thinking about, like, what does this music sound like to my younger ear, my teenage ear? It struck me that I feel like she's doing, like, a reverse Jewel.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Oh, that's right. Jewel went from folk to pop.

**Raleigh:** Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** Well, and then to country.

**Taylor:** Oh—oh, you're right!

**Sydnee:** Didn't she go down a country road eventually?

**Taylor:** She did have a country—a moment. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** So it is a reverse Jewel! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, that's what I—I feel like—

**Taylor:** [through laughter] The Jewel reverse card!

**Raleigh:** Yeah! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** When Jewel first came out it was very, like—and I know this comparison—like, in light of the way Jewel is regarded today, I feel like you're gonna think this is negative. But please know, I love Jewel. [laughs quietly] Especially Jewel's first album was, like, I mean, to my little sixth grade ears was just, like, "Ohhh. This woman. She gets it." [laughs] Like, I love this music!

And I still will defend that, like, early on, the stuff Jewel producing was, like, raw and good, and, you know, I really felt. Um, and it was very folk. You know, uh, and then it did get—her music got more and more poppy as time went on, and it was harder for me to, like, connect with individual songs or, like, really feel like this was as moving. It was like, "Well, it's not bad, but... it's not my favorite."

And I feel like she went a country road eventually, or maybe I'm just putting that idea on her. But I feel like she eventually ended up making some stuff that was vaguely country. Um, and then it—and I feel like that as a result, we don't really talk about Jewel as one of, like, the major artists that have impacted music, even though there was a moment back in the '90s where Jewel was incredibly significant and important for the music she was putting out and the people that loved it, and I would still defend her. But I feel like this is the opposite.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** It's funny, 'cause you'd think perhaps Jewel was an attempt to be more marketable on a broad stage, whereas Taylor Swift has started out just so marketable, and has made herself maybe less so? But, like, for the better, I'd say, you know?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, I think—I think that's true, because I—my first brush with listening to this music—it doesn't have some of the ear worms that a lot of her albums do in my opinion.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that's fair.

**Sydnee:** Like, it's not instantly, like, embedded in my brain as, like, "Oh, I gotta go back and listen to that song again."

Um, and for, like—I know that Taylor Swift's audience is not—like, she is not targeting young kids as a demo, certainly, um, with any of her music. I think it's—it says something that some of her past work, like, both myself and my six-year-old would listen to and enjoy.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That says a lot about how accessible and how, like, broad this is supposed to appeal to. Who are you aiming to appeal to? And I think when we talk about some of her bops, that's what it is.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I mean, that's kind of—that's what relationship struck me as that—you know, I—I go into an open mind with any of these, music that I haven't listened to. And I don't—I'm—Taylor Swift's past catalog in no way is offensive to me. I think she's a great pop musician.

But I was not expecting to have this album resonate with me as much as it did, because I guess there's a... like, you know, Taylor Swift isn't really young anymore. She's, what? Like, 30 by now?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm, 30.

**Taylor:** I think she's 30.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, and, like, you know, I'm also in my 30's. There was a—there's a level of, like—there's a lack of hope, and a lack of, like, innocence in this album, which I actually find really refreshing, you know?

It's—like, she's been through it all. She's fallen in love, she's fallen out of love. She's had her hopes up, and she's been disappointed. She's had people tear her apart, and she's stitched herself back together. And that kind of resolution of, like, "I can—I can get past things, but things still hurt," is something that I think—it's a much more mature album than I think—I was surprised to find that I felt like—I don't know if this is for me, but it feels like it's kind of for me. It's for people that have kind of been through it, you know?

We joke a lot—we've joked before on the show about how your emotions kind of die when you get older. And that's a joke, they don't. But they do develop this resolution of, "It hurts right now. I know it'll get better, but it does hurt." Or, "I'm in love right now, but most things end, so who knows how long this'll last?" And that kind of awareness to it really struck me.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. There's a whole kind of theme throughout her last album, and now especially into this one, where she talks about a lot. She used to write about love and breakups in this super, like... you know, you break up and it's that angry, like, breakup song. And she had so many of those on some of her past albums, where you listen to and, like, you're really mad at the person you're with, or you're going through a breakup that's really upsetting, and it just makes you feel, like, angry, and empowered.

And she would even write ones about how, like, love is this thing that makes you go crazy or whatever, and makes you, like... scream out at each other, but that means you really love each other, and it's a big emotional roller coaster and it's not easy.

And, um, now the theme of her music is, like—she said, "I used to think love was red, but now I know it's golden," because she's like, "I was young and I used to think it was, like, this intense, passionate thing where you had to, like, have these horrible fights, and it had to be, like, this whole thing that messed with your emotions. But now that I am actually with someone as an adult that I love, I know it's a more mature thing than that."

And she even sings about how, like, she used to have this axe to grind against all these boys that broke her heart, and would write these songs

about them, but now they're having babies and she sends them presents, and she's happy for them because she's happy.

And it's definitely a maturing where, like, I wouldn't have listened to this when I was in, like, high school, and the guy I liked didn't like me back, and I was super angry, and I'd listen to all of her, like, emotional songs. Like, this is more... you can tell she has grown up as she has been writing her music. And of course if this is what she's been writing while she's been in isolation, it's gonna be what's coming from her and her thoughts, not what she thinks people are gonna like the most, necessarily.

**Taylor:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Well, and I think it's funny, 'cause what you're—what you're talking about, that idea about understanding that about love—as you were talking I was thinking, "Well, yeah."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I mean, it seems so obvious.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** But it's because I'm on the other end of that, and, um, it's not obvious when you're a teenager. It's not obvious when you're young. And that revelation, while I think it is not—like, to say it out loud is not new, it's kind of a mundane revelation, it's also incredibly—like, everybody can understand that and connect to it, and most people will feel that at some point in their life.

Which is, like, what, at the core, a lot of good music does, right? Connects to something that a lot of us can understand and feel and—you know. It's not so... you're not writing about how it feels to fly in a private jet, 'cause [laughs] most of us don't know what that's like. But when you write about, you know, how it feels to understand what love really is, okay. Well, yeah, we can all connect to that. That's music.



**Taylor:** And I think it's—it's doing that, but it's on, like, a more—like, a—it's a more intimate, specific way. One of my favorite songs on this was "This Is Me Trying," and it's—

**Raleigh:** That's a good one.

**Taylor:** It's so beautiful, but it's—you know, it's—so many, like, breakup—or not—or, like, relationship songs are about, like, what went wrong, or the other person. But it's so reflective on, like, these are my faults, and this is what I'm trying to do, and this is, you know, what I have to offer.

It's—it's not the falling in love, and it's not the breaking up. It's the middling part where it's like, "I wanna make this work, but I don't... I don't have all the tools necessary."

And I think that's a really beautiful, nuanced song about something that's hard to encapsulate.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I mean, so many of her breakup songs or, like, relationship going through rough patches, falling apart songs or whatever, were always about what the other person was doing wrong and, like, what was upsetting, and how awful this other person was or whatever. But this was—this is—these are my faults in this, and this is me trying to resolve them, and also resolve myself. And that's something that you don't think about when you're a teenager.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Raleigh:** In a relationship. You don't think, like, "Well what am *I* doing wrong, here?"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "What do *I* need to work on?"

**Sydnee:** It's definitely a lot more introspective, I would say, in that way. In a way that I think a lot of people—it will resonate with a lot of people right

now, because a lot of us are spending a lot more time, um, alone in our heads than we're used to.

**Rileigh:** I mean, this was definitely something that she didn't do a lot of lead up for. She announced it the day it was coming out at midnight. There was no, like, big teaser, reveal video. It wasn't super glamorous. It was just tweeted. Like, "Hey, this album comes out tonight at midnight."

And I think she created it because it was what she wanted to do, and it actually – I didn't know this until just now – it broke the Guinness World Record for the biggest opening day for an album by a female artist on Spotify ever.

**Taylor:** Oh, wow.

**Sydnee:** Huh!

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I'm not surprised. I mean, with her fan base, and then with the way her music has been changing. And it does. I mean, I can see how it could connect specifically to a lot of people right now. Always, I think, and generally it could, but especially right now.

Help me understand... when this album came out, I saw an article that was—I don't remember what it was written on, but it was pushed to me as, like, "Look at all the people who got cardigans from Taylor Swift!"

And I was like, "... What?"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I'm—[laughs] Wh—I'm confused. Why is Taylor Swift giving out cardigans? And I didn't click on it. So could you please tell me why, um—

**Raleigh:** The song "Cardigan—"

**Sydnee:** I knew it was the song "Cardigan." But, like, why did she give people cardi—like, who got cardigans, and why?

**Taylor:** Not me.

**Raleigh:** Well, I think the people who got one—

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Yeah, I didn't get one.

**Raleigh:** I didn't get one.

**Sydnee:** I like cardigans!

**Raleigh:** I do too! Um, she sold them after the music came out. You could buy a Taylor Swift cardigan, that was a "Cardigan" cardigan. Um—

**Sydnee:** [laughs loudly] It was—

**Raleigh:** Like the song, "Cardigan." It was that cardigan. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Does it say "Cardigan" on it? Like, it's referencing the song, but it also just looks like you're wearing a weird, labeled cardigan? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] That's a whole new clothing line she's coming out with. This cardigan says "Cardigan," these pants say "Pants," this shirt says "Shirt." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I'm down for it.

**Sydnee:** It's not—it's, like, real normcore.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** The f—uh, so the album all came out at the same time, but the only song that had a music video that came out at midnight with the album was "Cardigan." That was the first music video for the album, and I think as a promotional thing, she sent friends cardigans.

**Sydnee:** Ah.

**Raleigh:** Um, but I actually just watched an interview she did where she broke down the music video for "Cardigan," which I don't know if either of you watched, but basically it's like, she's playing piano in this warm cozy cabin. Then she climbs into the piano, and she's in this magical green forest. But then there's this, like, ocean, and it's super aggressive and super, like—you know, it gets intense. But then she comes back to the cabin, and that's how it ends.

But she was talking about how that whole thing was supposed to be this big, long, extended metaphor for, like, you're in this cozy safe space, like, in the cabin, you know, by yourself, where you're comfortable. Your sense of self.

You go into this new world. You enter a relationship, and it's so magical, and there's sparkles, and it's this big, enchanted forest and there's, like, magic everywhere, and it's amazing. And then it starts breaking up and, like, your—I mean, it's shown her, like, getting splashed with all the water and, like, you know, gets intense for a minute.

And then she returns back to the cabin by the end, but she's still, like, soaking wet from that part. And she's like, that's—you return to your sense of self at the end eventually, but you still are changed from what you experienced. And you can get back there eventually, but you're never gonna be exactly the same as before you went into it.

And it was this whole, big, long... full circle. I thought that was pretty cool.

**Sydnee:** That is really nice, yeah. I like that.

**Taylor:** And that's cool, how I think it parallels the album itself. Because, you know, that's—there's a difference between sort of a concept album that's meant to be listened to as a whole, as you said, Raleigh, and then, like—versus just a bunch of songs, you know?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** If it's all over the place with tone. And that—this album felt like, you know, you kind of are brought in with something familiar, you know, that starts out with, what? The—"The 1"?

**Raleigh:** "The 1."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah. And then it ends with "Hoax," and they're both sort of, you know—they're both kind of sad relationship songs. Maybe a bit more familiar ground but, like, you're kind of, like, going into something and then it goes—it goes to a lot of very interesting story lines and places, and then you kind of come back out the other end. So I like that as, like, that's the flow of the album.

**Raleigh:** That's true. I hadn't thought about that.

**Sydnee:** That's very true. And I will say, to, like, echo, when we listened to "The 1," as it started I thought, "Well, this sounds—"

**Raleigh:** Like Taylor Swift.

**Sydnee:** It sounded to me very much like Taylor Swift. Like, there was nothing, like... I mean, I'm not saying it was bad. I actually—I like the song, but it sounded very similar to what I was used to. And Charlie stuck with me

through that one. It was as we moved past that that she was like, "[sighs heavily]"

**Raleigh:** "This isn't... for me."

**Sydnee:** It was just—I mean, it was like—

**Raleigh:** I get it.

**Sydnee:** —it couldn't her—but it's because she couldn't dance to it, and she's six. But, like—[laughs] Um, I will say, I really enjoyed it. I liked what she did. Um, it's funny, 'cause I could—I could tell outside of that head space—I know what that head space is. I have been there many times. It is not the head space I'm in now. I think I'm too angry to be there right now.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** But I can understand, from times when I'm in that head space, how this would be, like, very—like, this is the music I need right now. I can really connect to this. I feel this. This is where I am. Um, when I'm not so angry, I think I'll feel it more, but I enjoy it. I think it's very good. I get why it is so popular.

**Taylor:** Well, and it was kind of a nice reminder of those feelings. 'Cause I don't know. Like, you know. As somebody who's—who's getting older, but also very, very... single, like, you know, the whole lockdown thing kind of puts you in the mind of, like, "Well, I'm definitely not gonna meet anybody. There will be no love. There will be no excitement. There will be no any of that, because I am locked inside my house."

Uh, but then to kind of remember, like, oh, well, that's... you know, that—there's that whole world of, like, the emotions that you're excited to have, and that you're scared of having, that are out there, that are on the other side of this that, you know, kind of—it's nice to remember, even if you can't have them, that they're out there. I kind of felt like I turned off that part of

me, and this album was a nice, like, "Oh, right. I feel things other than fear."  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It was a catharsis.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** It was, uh—I will admit, I started at the beginning, and usually if I'm just listening to music, put it on shuffle, whatever. But this album, I sat down, turned it on from the beginning, listened to the thing the whole way through. And I was surprised at first. There was no, like... there was no bop. There was no moment where, like, it was that poppy thing you were used to, with the recurring chorus that gets stuck in everyone's head, and everyone's singing for weeks.

Um, so I had to go back and relisten and really, like, think about—it kind of all stays the same tone throughout, and the same level. Like, it doesn't get super, super intense. It doesn't get super poppy. There are some, you know, ups and downs, but it stays pretty even keel.

But, like, I think that is also just the point... of the whole thing. Is, like, in reality, life usually isn't this series of, like, super intense, like, heartbreaks and upset, and as you're getting older it's not, like... you know, crying over the boy that broke up with you when you were 15, like her songs used to be about. It usually is more just, like, it gets more of the same, as you get older. And... I appreciate that.

**Taylor:** Well that's—I really—I saw—a lot of people kind of made fun of, or made, like, a—you know, a tweet thing out of the cover, just because it's—I mean, I think it's iconic. I like the album cover but, you know. I also think it's perfect for the album as well, 'cause it looks like sort of wandering through the woods.

And I think that's—you know, you're right. Like, it's—if you're on a long walk through the woods, you might come across something weird, or really

beautiful, or kind of strange. You know, it's the same setting, but it's the little details that sort of, you know, change your perception. And that's very much what the album is. It feels very much the same the whole way through, but then there's all these little details, and thoughts, and ideas.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And I think it's important to talk about, like—I think a lot of us have been taking this time to, like, get outside when we can, 'cause... [laughs quietly] We're spending so much time in our homes. And, like, the ability to be out in nature—it sounds very cliché.

But again, it is an experience we're all having, and I think that it is important to try to tap in to those, and not feel like—not throw shade at it. Like, that's fine. You know? If it makes you feel good to be in the woods, that—that might sound cliché, but like... it does! It—it does, you know? I mean, we all feel good when we're able to breathe a little bit and have a little space, especially right now when a lot of us are trapped in smaller spaces a lot more than we're used to.

Um, that—so it's okay that it's cliché. We're all doin' the same stuff. And that connectedness is what will get us through this, because we can't be physically connected, so those shared experiences are all the more important.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I think, uh—there's a song from one of her past albums called "Out of the Woods," and the whole thing is like, are we out of the woods yet? Like, are we out of the troubles, the problems or whatever? Are we in the clear? Um, and I like that this—it's like you said, the whole thing is like walking through the woods.

Like, you accept that you're never really out of the woods. There might be parts that are more of a clearing, and less of a hike, but you're always in them. And you don't have to worry about getting out of them. You just learn to, like, go with it. The more you walk through it, the more you get used to it.



I hadn't thought about that until just now. That's a whole, like, transition to, like, "Yeah, we're all here, and it's a real rough patch right now, and we're never gonna be out of the woods, but we'll get—we'll get to, like, a clearing together."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** That's a beautiful thought, Rileigh! Thank you for that. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Thank you. Well, thank you all for listening to this album with me. I know it was a Taylor Swift album, but it felt like a good kind of relaxing head space to put ourselves in during this time.

**Sydnee:** I enjoyed it.

**Taylor:** As did I.

**Rileigh:** I'm glad.

**Sydnee:** I enjoyed it. And I don't—I don't have any problem in general with Taylor Swift.

**Rileigh:** Oh, I know. It's just, you don't—you don't expect that when you know some of the—the past bops to come out of Taylor Swift.

**Taylor:** You know, as somebody that in my 20s very much defined myself as having "cool"—quote—I'm using quote-y fingers—music taste, like, I only realized when I got old enough to realize I'm not gonna be cool, so I just need to stop trying as much, how much good music I'd cut myself off from, because I wanted to achieve that arbitrary idea of cool. Like, this is a really beautiful, enjoyable album, and I'm really glad that you introduced it to us, and that she made it.

**Rileigh:** Oh. Well, good.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I'm gonna go back and listen to Jewel now, too.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Well, there's that, too.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Sydnee, are we talking about Jewel next week, or...? What's next?

**Sydnee:** No. Although man, that would've been a great—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I wish! I wish.

**Raleigh:** Would've been a great transition.

**Sydnee:** At some point, I should make you listen to Jewel, shouldn't I?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, yeah. I'll do that at some point.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Not yet. We just did music. We'll do something different. Um, I wanna talk about *Veronica Mars*.

**Raleigh:** Oh, I love *Veronica Mars*.

**Sydnee:** Tey, you haven't seen any, right?

**Taylor:** Yeah! This is interesting, 'cause you both have experienced this. I am the one that will be new to this.

**Raleigh:** I think this is new, this is a first!

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. This is, uh—so the original TV series, which came out—oh, gosh. I don't know. We'll talk about it next time. But it's on Hulu, and that's the one I'll probably talk about the most. Um, obviously, there was a movie, and then there was a reboot very recently. But, um—but the original series is the one that really, like, captured my heart, so we'll probably focus there. But we'll talk about the whole thing.

**Raleigh:** I'm excited.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** Alright. Well, thank you both. This has been—this has been fun.

**Raleigh:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** This has been nice.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And it is. I will continue to try to get in that relaxing head space where Taylor Swift is, in the woods.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Taylor Swift can take you there.

**Sydnee:** Uh, thank you both. Thank you, listeners. I hope everybody is staying safe, and taking care of yourselves, and everybody in your little isolation pod. Um, you can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, if you have thoughts or suggestions or questions or comments. And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:** And I'm Taylor Smirl!

[theme music begins in the background]

**Raleigh:** I am still buffering...

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

**Raleigh:** Great job, guys.

**Taylor:** Syd, what was your—Raleigh, what was your—what'd you say your favorite song was?

**Raleigh:** "Mad Woman."

**Taylor:** Yeah. And what was yours, Syd?

**Sydnee:** I really liked the first one.

**Raleigh:** "The 1"? Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Raleigh:** That's a close second. Tey?

**Taylor:** I think it's "This Is Me Trying." Is that the title?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm, yeah. All good. All good ones.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

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[crosstalk from multiple people]

**Speaker One:** These are real podcast listeners, not actors.

[crosstalk from multiple people]

**Speaker One:** Hey, thanks for coming! Here's a list of descriptors. What would you choose to describe the perfect podcast?

**Speaker Two:** I mean, vulgarity.

**Speaker Three:** Dumb. Definitely dumb.

**Speaker Four:** And, like, uh... right here, this one. Meritless.

**Speaker One:** What if I told you there was a podcast that *did* have all of that?

**Speaker Two:** [gasps]

**Speaker Three:** No.

**Speaker One:** *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* And it's free.

**Group:** *Jordan, Jesse, Go?*

[applause]

**Speaker Four:** [whispering] *Jordan, Jesse, Go!*

**Speaker One:** *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* A real podcast.

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