

## Still Buffering 229: "The Execution of All Things" (2002)

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[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Sydnee:** Uh, so I discovered TikTok.

**Rileigh:** [quietly] Oh, no...

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Just now? Right before it—it—it goes away forever?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Uh, it's not going away anymore.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** It's been saved.

**Rileigh:** [holding back laughter] It's been saved by a very probably illegal and suspicious deal with the American government.

**Taylor:** Great.

**Rileigh:** Orchestrated by our President, of course. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I'm sure either him or some of his friends made money.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Would be my guess.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I don't...

**Raleigh:** Yeah, uh—they, uh—TikTok had to be bought out within 45 days by an American company, because of course we can't trust anybody else that's not American. Of course.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Um, and—but as a requirement of the deal... uh, the President announced that an unspecified educational fund would receive a five million dollar donation from this company, so that the government was benefiting off of the deal.

**Sydnee:** Ohhh, is it his, uh—

**Raleigh:** It's Trump University!

**Sydnee:** —is it Trump U?

**Raleigh:** I actually—I don't know if it is. I don't know what the fund is, but that's what he describes it as.

**Sydnee:** No, but the—is it his new Trump U?

**Taylor:** That 1776 thing or whatever?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It could be.

**Taylor:** That admission program that's meant to fight [through laughter] the awareness of, like—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, you know, the problem with American history has been that it doesn't tell you enough about white people, right?

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Right.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, up til now—

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Right.

**Taylor:** It really doesn't—

**Sydnee:** —it hasn't talked about white people enough, so...

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** We need to be framed in a more heroic light, I think, uh, historically. We haven't really, you know... done that.

**Sydnee:** Right. Like, calling the people who, like, first started our country—like, we should call them something like fathers. Like, the—the fathers of the founding. Like, founding fathers.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** We should use terms like those that have never been used before in American history—

**Taylor:** [groans]

**Rileigh:** But also, like, why are—why are us white people always painted out to be the bad guy [holding back laughter] in history?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** C'mon, guys! We're—[through laughter] we're the good guys, here! Uh, obviously I'm just kidding. Please, no one—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, obviously we're being facetious.

**Rileigh:** No one take that out of context and put it on the internet somewhere as, like, a soundbite. That's not—I would never—we are the bad guys, always.  
[laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Yes. Obviously we're joking. Uh, I do not think—I do not think American history needs, um—as taught in our public schools, needs more white people. There's—

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I feel like—

**Sydnee:** —plenty.

**Rileigh:** There's too many.

**Taylor:** —that whatever deal, the fact that—that—that he had a hand in it, I was more okay with my information being somewhere in China—

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm!

**Taylor:** —than I am with it actually being in the hands of... uh, the current Americans in charge. [through laughter] So, I don't have TikTok anymore!

**Rileigh:** Also, I mean, uh—

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I still don't know what I'm doing with it. Someone followed me almost as soon as I got on, and I wanted to, like, apologize to them. I'm sorry. I haven't posted—

**Rileigh:** "I have nothing for you."

**Sydnee:** —I don't know what I'm doing on here. Um, I just wanted to see why my kids get so excited about the YouTube videos that are based on TikToks.

**Taylor:** Hmm.

**Rileigh:** I just know that whoever is getting information from TikTok, all they're getting is a bunch of Gen Z people who have been stuck inside for way too long, that now have, I don't know, turned to fictional characters, and created more

fiction—like, it's basically fanfiction, except turned into, like, TikToks now, is what TikToks is.

**Sydnee:** Well, and a lot of, like, people who are, um... kind of... reverse engineering how to learn to cook, through the use of the word "hack." They think that learning a recipe is a hack. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] I have discovered. That's not a hack. That's a recipe. I mean, I guess it's a hack, in the sense that, like, now you can take ingredients and make food out of them.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Taylor:** [laughs] "Tomato hack: take a knife. Cut it into slices! You just hacked a tomato!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, that's—I mean, that's, like, a lot of, like, baking hacks. It's like, "Take some flour. Have some eggs, some milk, some sugar, some butter. [holding back laughter] Mix it together."

**Raleigh:** "Put it in a mug, and put it in the microwave, and you have a cake!"

**Sydnee:** Sometimes they're putting it in pans and putting it in the oven! And I'm like, "Well, now you're—now—"

**Raleigh:** That's just a cake.

**Sydnee:** "Now you've just baked. I mean, you baked it." [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** If you—if you've been on TikTok, you've seen the egg sandwich.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And Sydnee hates this egg sandwich so much, and I don't know why! Taylor, have you seen the egg sandwich?

**Taylor:** I have seen an egg sandwich. Uh, I guess this is a specific one we are discussing. [laughs] Why is there an egg sandwich that—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] It's, like, this way that someone came up with—

**Taylor:** —okay. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Go ahead.

**Raleigh:** But, like, you put the two pieces of bread down, and then you put the eggs on top, but there's a way to, like, flip it so that you're flipping it all into a sandwich, but you're making it flat, and then folding it—I don't know.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah, I've seen that.

**Sydnee:** The egg—the egg adheres to the bread—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** —and then you can flip it, and then fold it. And it's just...

**Taylor:** Why does that make you mad?

**Sydnee:** Every—everybody's like—well, everybody's so excited about it! Like, "Look at this great hack!" And it's like, this isn't—this is nothing! This isn't saving you time! [laughs] You could just put the bread in the toaster while you're making the eggs... [pauses]

**Raleigh:** This is—Sydnee—

**Sydnee:** [wheezes]

**Raleigh:** —you've found your niche of TikToks to make, and it's you dueting, where you can, like, re—put your face next to a video that already exists—

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] Uh-huh?

**Rileigh:** —uh, put your own video. You duet these hacks, and you just yell at them the whole time about how this is not a hack. [laughs]

**Taylor:** That would be a hit. There you go.

**Rileigh:** People would love it.

**Sydnee:** I do enjoy all the ones—I have found the genre of people packing lunches for people, as opposed—I guess dueted with a video of someone making a very intricate, like, well-presented, well-prepared, like, "Here's my child's lunch for today!" And they're, like, cutting them nicely. It's all, like, fresh stuff and there's, like, shapes involved, and it's all a beautiful—it's like one of those really nice lunchboxes that has all the little things, and, like—

**Taylor:** Like a bento box.

**Sydnee:** —it's dueted with a video of a mom standing there stuffing, like... oatmeal creme pies and, like, [laughs] a Lunchable.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] A Lunchable.

**Sydnee:** And, like—in one of 'em it's, like, a White Claw just, like, [through laughter] dropped into the lunch bag. Like, "Here."

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** I've gotten into those.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Sydnee's a *real* mom.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Is that what it is?

**Rileigh:** She—she doesn't—she doesn't have time for the—the—the... the stuff that real moms have time for.

**Sydnee:** I try. I actually—I—I kind of shot myself in the foot with that, because I—my, um—I found Lunchables gross as an adult.

**Rileigh:** Which is ridiculous.

**Taylor:** [flatly] What?

**Sydnee:** I'm sorry. I—I know. I ate them—

**Taylor:** I can't eat anything inside a Lunchable, yet I will fully endorse their deliciousness.

**Rileigh:** Thank you!

**Sydnee:** I—I understand this perspective, and I thought I would share it. We got Lunchables for Charlie the first time, and I was so excited. I was like, "Yes. I get to eat these little teeny circles of meat, and the crackers that are so cold." They're always so cold, the crackers.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "And the cheese, and I get to eat it all, and I'm so excited." And then I ate one, and I was like, "This tastes bad." And Charlie didn't really like it. So I started making Lunchables for her. Which, I mean, is not, like, fancy, right?

**Rileigh:** That's just, like, cutting little things out of, like, slices of cheese and lunch meat.

**Sydnee:** Exactly. I would cut—I would cut the turkey into circles, and cut the cheese into little squares, and give her that. My homemade Lunchables.

**Taylor:** That's just a little—

**Sydnee:** And then also I could ma—

**Taylor:** —that's a baby charcuterie board. That's what—that's what your child is having. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah! Exactly!



**Sydnee:** But I—but I turned my children off on Lunchables. 'Cause now they like—

**Raleigh:** Fancy Lunchables.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] Bespoke Lunchables. That their mother prepared for them.

**Taylor:** Now, I'm surprised that's not a thing yet.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** There are the, um, adult Lunchables you can find at the store that are, like, much nicer meats and cheeses. And they come with, like, dried fruits and nuts and things like that. You can find those at the store, actually.

**Taylor:** I endorse that.

**Raleigh:** But the important question is, what about the pizza ones? Those are the best ones.

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** Well, here's the thing. I've never gotten her the pizza ones, 'cause my daughter Charlie will not eat pizza sauce.

**Raleigh:** Cooper will, though.

**Sydnee:** Cooper would probably eat it. She would eat the whole thing.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Cooper would devour that tiny pizza.

**Sydnee:** But for Charlie, it would be sprinkling cold cheese on a cold circle of...

**Raleigh:** [muffled laughter]

**Sydnee:** ... pizza crust.

**Raleigh:** Of... dough, question mark?

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] Yeah.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Uhh, you're right. That would be bad.

**Sydnee:** Do you know what the chicken nugget one comes with?

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** This—okay. I—I put—I have actually banned these from our home, now.

**Raleigh:** Okay, wait, wait, no, wait. This is a fun game. Um—

**Sydnee:** Okay, there is a Lunchable—

**Taylor:** There's a... chicken nugget one, so it comes with cold chicken nuggets?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. And you just give your kid cold chicken nuggets.

**Raleigh:** What does it—okay. So, like, dessert?

**Sydnee:** It comes with three things.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** Chicken nuggets.

**Sydnee:** Yes. No, I mean—

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Mashed potatoes?

**Sydnee:** —there are three things with the chicken nuggets.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Nope.

**Rileigh:** Um—

**Sydnee:** You're never gonna guess this.

**Rileigh:** A singular Oreo?

**Sydnee:** Nope.

**Rileigh:** A weird brownie?

**Sydnee:** Nope.

[pauses]

**Rileigh:** I have no idea.

**Taylor:** Peaches!

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Oh, no.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No fruit, here.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** There—there are three things that come with the chicken nuggets.

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Okay? One is ketchup.

**Rileigh:** Sure.

**Taylor:** Sure, alright, yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's included as a side.

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Uh, the next is a Capri Sun.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** Delicious.

**Taylor:** Great.

**Sydnee:** And the third thing is a box of Nerds.

**Raleigh:** [wheezes]

**Taylor:** Wow!

**Raleigh:** [muffled laughter] What?! How is that—[laughs]

**Taylor:** I think—I think the kids overtook the Lunchables factory. I think that there is—

**Raleigh:** They did!

**Taylor:** —there is a kid boss there that's makin' kid decisions. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And you gotta know. Because of—because of, you know, the pandemic, my kids don't go to the store. So it's not like—Charlie did not choose this.

**Taylor:** Oh, who did?

**Sydnee:** But it did appear in our refrigerator. [laughs quietly] Justin.

**Raleigh:** Ah, okay.

**Sydnee:** And... and I saw this, and I was like, "Well, I can't... I have not sunk this low. I can't do this. I can't do *this*."

**Raleigh:** So that's it? Like, your lunch is some cold chicken nuggets with some ketchup, and Nerds?

**Sydnee:** And a Capri Sun.

**Rileigh:** That doesn't—I mean, it sounds delicious.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I'm sure it's like—Charlie, like, would love it. But...

**Sydnee:** I—I gave it to her, actually, just 'cause—I mean, I don't want—it felt bad to, like, waste it. But I gave it to her, and I was like, "Enjoy this."

**Rileigh:** [bursts into laughter]

**Sydnee:** "[through laughter] Because it is the only one you'll ever consume."

**Taylor:** I don't see any—what is enjoyable about that? Like, health—health concerns—

**Sydnee:** [loudly] I don't know!

**Taylor:** —all completely ignored, like, cold chicken nuggets? Fried food is not good cold.

**Sydnee:** I don't know. I try to—I am not, like—I am not the, you know, end all be all of parents by any stretch, but I at least try to balance out, like, my kid needs some vegetables, and some fruits.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** They need some protein in there from something, you know. Like, here's some grains. Like, I try to, like—

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Here's some grains.

**Sydnee:** —balance it all. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Some grains.

**Sydnee:** I try to think about—

**Taylor:** Just chew on some barley, child!

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** The—[laughs] the amino acids that kids need, and the vitamins they need, and where they all come from. Like, I try to force those—yeah, I know you don't wanna eat that vegetable, but you need more vegetables. Eat the vegetable.

Like, I try that, and this is just an extreme of giving up that I can't...

**Rileigh:** You know what you've done, though, is you've implanted the, uh—the forbidden fruit in Charlie's brain. She's had it once. She'll never have it again. So the day Charlie turns 16 and can drive herself places, she goes right to Walmart, [through laughter] gets that Lunchable, says to you, "I got you, mom! I got one."

**Sydnee:** Eats that cold chicken nugget and goes, "Why did I want this?"

**Rileigh:** "Why did I want it?" [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't know. Years from now when she's off at college and she gets a little homesick, she's gonna go to the store and get herself some chicken nuggets and Nerds and think of you. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] "You know what reminds me of my parents? Chicken nuggets and Nerds."

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's fair. That's us. If Justin and I were food, we would probably be chicken nuggets and Nerds.

**Rileigh:** 'Cause you're a buncha nerds!

**Taylor:** I was gonna say who's the chicken nugget and who's the Nerd? But I think I know. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, so that's enough about Lunchables, I think.

**Raleigh:** We're not talking about Lunchables.

**Taylor:** Are we not? I think we are, actually. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** We spent a whole episode once talking about Lunchables.

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** We've talked about Lunchables too much.

**Raleigh:** We've talked about them too much. Taylor, what are we actually talking about?

**Taylor:** Uh, today we are talking about the—the Rilo Kiley band. Uh, their album, The Execution of All Things. Um, it was very, uh—I was just—like, it came out in 2002, I believe. So that was when I was in high school, and I definitely listened to it in high school, but it really kind of tracked through my college years and after. Um... uh, yeah. Just a album that stuck with me. Has a lot of really good songs on it.

**Sydnee:** You know what was interesting? This is rare. I found myself not recognizing—I mean, there were some of the songs that stuck out as, like, "Oh, okay. I've heard this before." Um, definitely when I started looking into all of the teen shows...

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** ... that had Rilo Kiley songs. It clicked why I had heard so many before. Um, but other than that, like, it seems like this is a band that somehow missed me. Like, Taylor, you're familiar with, Raleigh, you're familiar with.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Somehow I was not familiar—I mean, I really enjoyed—we've actually—all week, we've had it on, like, we've just had Alexa playing songs. So, I listened to the album, but I've also just been listening to random songs. And, uh, I really enjoyed it, but somehow I missed it.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Yeah, I only was introduced to it because of you, Tey. You got me this vinyl album once for a Christmas, I believe. And it was one of those that I would, like, leave on the record player for, like, getting ready for—I think I was still in high school—in the mornings, and I would just turn it on and let it play in the background as I was getting ready. Um, and then eventually I realized I just wanted to listen to it, not just, you know, while I was getting ready in the morning, so I downloaded it to my phone and all that. Um, but it was the only time I'd been introduced to this band, was because of you, Tey.

**Taylor:** Well, that's—I mean, I got it for you because I thought it sounded like something that you would like, but also because it's... Rilo Kiley. Uh, which I was curious about the band name, and I looked into a bit of the—it's sort of some lore behind it, because one band mate originally claimed that he got the name from a dream where he was leafing through a sports almanac and saw the name in it, and that was it. But then I think that—then after that they claimed, like, no, there actually was a Scottish athlete named Rilo Kiley, and that's where they got the name.

**Rileigh:** Huh.

**Taylor:** So it might be a real person that had lived. It might have been a dream that one of the band members had about a real person that lived. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Did it inspire the name Kylo Ren is the big question?

**Rileigh:** Hmm.

**Taylor:** Uhh... I mean, you know, they're both pretty angsty, so there could be some... some correlation there.

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

**Rileigh:** I was amazed when I first heard this band name, because I was like, "Huh—wha—I thought that was *my*... my name, my nickname. Who else goes by—this can't be—this can't be right."

**Sydnee:** Rilo?



**Rileigh:** Yeah. Like, who else goes [stammers] used to go by this. Everyone—for reference, for someone not in our family, everyone has always called me Rilo instead of Rileigh.

**Sydnee:** Yes. My phone autocompletes to Rilo.

**Rileigh:** Really?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It tries to change Rileigh to Rilo.

**Rileigh:** I guess it's just like a—like a cuter version of Rileigh, 'cause it's the same amount of syllables. Doesn't really make it shorter. I don't know.

**Taylor:** See, I thought—I started to call you that 'cause of the band. But I don't know, I just—

**Rileigh:** Hm! Okay!

**Sydnee:** And, well, and it also—

**Rileigh:** That's where it came from.

**Sydnee:** —it also—we, uh... I don't know, because we shorten, Teylor, your name to Teylo, often.

**Taylor:** That's true. And I've heard people make the attempt at Sydlo before. Uh, that doesn't make any phonetic sense.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Oh no.

**Taylor:** But I've heard it said.

**Rileigh:** Sydno? [pauses] Sydno? [laughs]

**Taylor:** Sydno?

**Sydnee:** [incredulously] Sydno?

**Rileigh:** It's just Syd.

**Taylor:** Syd, no!

**Sydnee:** Yeah, Syd's easier.

**Rileigh:** Syd, no!

**Taylor:** [laughs] That's when Sydnee does a bad. "Syd, no."

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Syd, no... " Yours came from that file you had saved on the family desktop computer.

**Taylor:** Oh, yes, yeah. The Teylo Personal File.

**Sydnee:** The Teylo Personal. But I don't know if that was—because I was not as familiar with it. I don't know if I picked it up from you. Maybe I did. Maybe that's where Rilo came from, was you. But, um, it also—I don't know. I wasn't gonna call you Ridey Boo.

**Rileigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** Like Mom and Dad would.

**Rileigh:** [laughs] When you say it like that, no one wants to call anyone that.

**Taylor:** Yeah, that—that—

**Rileigh:** Ridey Boo.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's just—eugh. Ahh. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Little Ridey Boo!" No, it was—well, I'm not gonna say that.

**Rileigh:** Oh, and you said it just like Dad. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's what he would say!

**Taylor:** Yeah, I got—I had this, uh, one girl in—it was elementary school, and she tried to get Teybee goin'. And I just was like, "I don't like you, and I don't like that."

**Rileigh:** Ugh.

**Taylor:** "[through laughter] Never talk to me again."

**Rileigh:** No. Teybee?

**Sydnee:** Teybee?

**Taylor:** Teybee.

**Rileigh:** Where do you even get the "B" sound from?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I don't know. There are no "B's" involved in my name. I do not understand.

**Rileigh:** Anywhere!

**Taylor:** It just was what she decided that that's what I should be called, and I did not like it.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Taylor, why do you think this album was, like, important or meaningful?

**Taylor:** You know, as I was listening back through it, um, man, it took me places. Like, these songs are tied to such specific moments in my life. And, I mean, it definitely was for me, 'cause I—it came out when I was in high school, and I was aware of it, but I did not start listening to it until college. And I think it makes sense, because it's such, like—as a whole, the album is, like—it's deeply sad, but it's also deeply hopeful. And I think that that encapsulates how I felt for my entire college career. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like, just—'cause it's like—you know, it's very—I was always the one that, like, even though I had—like, I never wanted to listen to the very clearly angsty, sad, angry music. Like, you know, that was never what appealed to me. I like melodic music. And this is such a poppy, digestible album in the audible sense. But then the lyrics are just so dark, and—and, you know, kind of nihilistic. And I think that combo [through laughter] really did it for me.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I—I really enjoyed that about it. I like, um—I get drawn in to music based on lyrics, and, like, sing-ability, maybe?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I think that's a musical theater thing.

**Sydnee:** Understand-ability, sing-ability—yeah.

**Rileigh:** I think if you grew up in show choir or musical theater, that's, like, that—'cause I do the same thing.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. And that definitely appealed to me as I was listening through this. Like, I said, I knew—some of the songs I was like, "I know I've heard this." Um, which I looked up, like—there were Rilo Kiley songs on *Dawson's Creek*, on *The OC*, on *Buffy*. Uh, there were lots of places where I am certain I encountered [through laughter] these songs.

There was one—I saw that one was on a specific episode of *Dawson's*, and I had to, like, find that song. It wasn't on the album that we were assigned, but I had to listen to it to be like, "Oh, I remember this. Yeah, okay. I can see the scene now."

**Rileigh:** "I can remember exactly what Dawson and Pacey were doing." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Well, if you wanna know—no.

**Rileigh:** No, I don't. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It was in the episode "Barefoot at Capeside," and... [laughs] that is the title of the episode.

**Raleigh:** Do you wanna... continue? We did a whole episode about *Dawson's Creek*—

**Sydnee:** [loudly] It was the beginning of when Pacey was starring—

**Taylor:** [groans]

**Sydnee:** —in *Barefoot in the Park* that Andy was directing, and it was very awkward 'cause they had broken up, but it was when he was falling in love with Joey—it's such a great episode.

[pauses]

**Raleigh:** Anyways. [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's cool. We can just have *Dawson's Creek* again. That's, you know—don't have to talk about the thing that I brought to the table. Let's talk about *Dawson's Creek*.

**Sydnee:** I—no, I'm not gonna talk about *Dawson's Creek*!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Uh, I want to talk more about Taylor's album—

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** —and less about *Dawson's Creek*.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** But—[laughs]

**Sydnee:** Oh, I see what you're doin' here! But before we do that—

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh. Let's check the group message.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

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**Sydnee:** Uh, so... you know, I've been, uh—I've been working from home a lot. And trying to keep Charlie on schedule with her homeschooling, home virtual schooling. And, uh, when you're working from home, it can start to feel like—if you don't go—if you don't get in a routine and, like, go through your usual morning motions, it can feel really disorienting, and it's hard to get in that head space. And for me, part of doing that is, like, getting dressed for work at home, you know? But I want to feel comfortable, too, 'cause I'm playing a lot of roles, wearing a lot of hats right now.

And, uh, Betabrand dress pant yoga pants are the perfect pants for this moment. I, uh—I always wore them to work when I was going to work, like, in person anyway, 'cause they were super comfortable. They look nice. They are dress pants, they just feel like you're wearing yoga pants all day long. Uh, but especially right now for working from home, where I'm transitioning between a lot of different roles very quickly, all in the same space.

Having these dress pant yoga pants from Betabrand makes it really comfortable and easy. They're very functional. They feel like workout gear, but they're not. They're made of wrinkle-resistant, stretch knit fabric—fabric. That's that word. Fabric. [laughs] And they're perfect for long workdays, whether at the office or at home, or, uh, running back and forth between one role to the next. Uh, they got you covered.

So, Teylor, if our listeners want to check out Betabrand dress pant yoga pants, where should they go?

**Teylor:** Well, right now our listeners can get 25% off their first order, when you go to [betabrand.com/buffering](https://betabrand.com/buffering). That's 25% off your first order for a limited time at [betabrand.com/buffering](https://betabrand.com/buffering). Find out why people are ditching typical work pants for Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants. Go to [betabrand.com/buffering](https://betabrand.com/buffering), get that 25% off.

**Raleigh:** That's a whole fourth.

**Teylor:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** That's—yeah.

**Sydnee:** Hey!

**Rileigh:** That's math.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Good math.

**Rileigh:** Thank you.

**Taylor:** You *have* been in college.

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Yeah. Can't you tell?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I'm so educated. [laughs quietly]

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**Sydnee:** Uh... Taylor, please talk to us more about Rilo Kiley, and I will refrain from mentioning...

**Rileigh:** [holding back laughter] *Dawson's Creek*.

**Taylor:** That's alright. I know you love Dawson's.

**Sydnee:** I wasn't even gonna say the name!

**Taylor:** Alright, it's okay.

**Sydnee:** I was just gonna say "the show that shall not be named."

**Taylor:** There are a lot of songs that I can kind of get into in particular as to why I like it, but I think, you know—my favorite song off the album, and I think a lot of people would—I think just sort of—I don't know. I think this is kind of an important song for maybe a generation, is "A Better Son or Daughter."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Um, that one—it's, uh—it's been in a couple things. More recently, Hannah Gadsby, that comedy special, *Nanette*, that I think it was on Netflix—it was so amazing, and stirring, and just—if you haven't watched it, I suggest it. But it ends with this song. That's her outro music. Um, and I can, like—you know, it's—it's such a build of just, like, going from a place of just feeling miserable and just, everything is awful, and I'm a mess, and I cause messes, and then it just crescendos into, like, this hopeful, like... you know, maybe if I just keep pushing through I'll get there. But there's still that undercurrent of, like, but—you know. [laughs] Like, maybe not. I don't—I had it, like—I had it as my wake up ringtone at, like, a very... dark place in my life. I was, like, living in just, like, a—that's when I was living in, like, the punk house, and just, you know, working—I worked until I could get off and drink, and then I would drink until I had to go back to work, and that was my life.

And this was my alarm for my, like, you know, 5:45, like, barely minimum wage job in the city that I had to take, like, two trains and two hours to get to. Uh, but most of the time it didn't wake me up, [through laughter] because I was still up from the previous day.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, it was just, like, madness at that point in my life, and just—just trying so hard, and working, physically, so hard, just to stay on my feet. But also, like, not doing anything productive with my life. And just, like, hearing this song come on in the other room as my phone was going off on an alarm while I'm, like, sitting at, you know, my dinner table with my roommates, like, still up and drinking. Like, "Oh. [through laughter] Gotta go to work now! Whoops. Messed up this one again."

**Sydnee:** That's a visceral feeling there that you're describing. An alarm going off and you're still up. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh yeah. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.



**Taylor:** Like, repeatedly, to the point that my roommates would be like, "Ughh, that's that Rilo Kiley song." [laughs] Like, "[through laughter] Teylor, change your life!"

**Sydnee:** Uh, I can see, you know, it definitely sounds—it connects me with that time—the time period that it's from, I feel like it's very—like, I feel that. It ties me back to those years. Not only because of its association with different shows that I watched back then, but also because, like, it feels like the music I enjoyed back then. Um, and still do, to this day. Not just back then.

But, um, there was something about—I could identify the different instruments [laughs quietly]—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —and isolate them as I was listening. There's something, like... not so polished about that that, like, I miss sometimes. Um, it reminds me of days of, like, going to shows. Music like that takes me back to, like, being in some, like, dive bar somewhere, watching some local bands play. [laughs quietly] You know what I mean? Like, that feeling.

And I could, like, in my brain, if I wanted to, I could focus on each different instrument and hear them individually, in addition to the way they come together. Like, I feel like music, as it gets more polished, you lose some of that. And then sometimes I'm like, "I don't even know. Is that a computer sound? I don't know what that sound is." But—[laughs] um, I like—there's something about that music that connects me to those—to my youth, and those years, and that—that's very, like, stirring to me.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. It does, um—we talked about an artist I had brought several months ago, I think, at this point, Dodie Clark, who started as a YouTuber. Um, and you had mentioned the connection to some, like, 90's, early 2000's artists, and this music to me was very reminiscent of her music. Just because it has that mix of, like, when you really listen to the lyrics, like, there's some darker stuff going on there, but the music isn't necessarily in that same tone. Um, I know what you mean about listening for the different instruments, because it's all very, like—it's not just about the beats and the—like, the moments and stuff. It's about the whole thing, as a piece. Not about, like, a catchy chorus or whatever. It's about, like, telling a story through the song, with the music to back up certain parts of it, and make what's important—you know.

**Sydnee:** Sometimes you can hear, like, a person who's playing a specific instrument. If you can just isolate that, you can feel them coming through it. You know what I mean? Like, you can really feel that baseline. You can really feel that guitar riff. Like, you can really... feel it. Um, and you feel connected—'cause you—I mean, I think it's normal in music to connect to the singer. They're singing.  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:** Sure. They're the one saying the words.

**Sydnee:** They're the one saying the words. And so, like, you can feel that. And sometimes in music when you can really hear those different parts, you can really feel like you're connected to that musician in the band in way. And, like, you can feel what they're trying to send through the music. And I like when music does that. I'm not saying, like, that's the best music that should only exist. There's lots of music that's a lot more produced and polished that I still thoroughly enjoy. But there's something about that that feels very youthful and connected to years gone by for me.

**Taylor:** Well, that is—I do think that specifically on this album, like, there are a lot of very building, like, kind of epic riffs that come in, like, opposite these kind of sad lyrics, that I do think it's like a counterpoint, you know? You have the—the awareness of the line, but then you have a very hopeful kind of rising guitar presence that I really like. Like, I can think on a couple songs where it's like, I know the lyrics, but I also can, like, hear the guitar in my head as, like, "And then the guitar kicks in, and then it's like, okay." But—you know. "Maybe we're gonna get better. Maybe things are gonna improve. Uh..."

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I really—and again, I think that might be part of, like, my own personal experience spent in, like I said, [laughs quietly] local YWCAs watching...  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Watching bands with people that I know in them play. You know what I mean?

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, part of it speaks to me on that level.

**Rileigh:** It is, like, a part of this genre of music that I feel like goes along really well with a lot of the music you both have brought to the show, that, like, you both liked. That was an antithesis to some of the more popular, like, boy bands or girl bands of the same era that were all about, like, the poppy, upbeat songs, with the really catchy, like, dance moves, and the music videos, and all that stuff. I'm not saying it's bad. Like, I've listened to all that music too, but it's a really, I think, interesting two clear categories of music that both, I think, were just as popular in that time period, but both are very different.

**Sydnee:** It was that evolution, I would say—and Teylor, you could probably speak to this more intelligently than me—that evolution of, like, grunge into something that was more, uh, palatable to everybody, you know? More widely appreciated. And whatever that music is. It's still got kind of that raw, like... you know, you can see, like, the... the long hair shaking back and forth as you're beatin' on the drums, and the sweat flyin' off. You can still feel that, but it's a little more restrained.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Teylor:** Yeah. I mean, I think that, like, you know, so much of the music that I think is adjacent to this gets categorized as just "indie," [laughs] which is such, like, a—you know. "Oh, that's independent." That can literally be anything. But then there is that element that I think that is the best way to describe it, because, like, when I listen to Rilo Kiley, like, it has elements of—I don't know, like, The Beach Boys. Like, there's something very, like...

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

**Teylor:** ... old school palatable rock and roll about it. But then it definitely has some experimental elements. It definitely has some pop sensibilities. It definitely drifts into grunge territory, you know. Different albums, maybe some, like, punk territory, and I like that. I like music that doesn't—like, I get bored when a band does the same thing on every song over and over again. The bands I typically like are ones that do have that kind of... that breadth of—of... you know, different things to offer. I mean, and, like, even this album, you know, the singer switches up. It's usually Jenny Lewis, but there are a couple songs that the other—the other—the—the—the guy—I can't think of his name. But he—he writes along with

Jenny Lewis and, like, it's—it's always kind of jarring to me, when one of his songs come on, but I also appreciate that they have that, like, variance.

**Rileigh:** They mix it up.

**Sydnee:** Um, that, uh—so, I know there were a lot of other projects that the people involved in the band did. Like, different bands that sort of—I don't wanna say split off. I was trying to read about the history of them to try to get a feel for, like, where did they go?

**Taylor:** Yeah, I—

**Sydnee:** Um—[laughs]

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Where are they now?

**Taylor:** —I was hoping there was more of a story there, but, I mean, it just—yeah. They broke up, but it didn't seem particularly like a bad breakup, you know?

**Sydnee:** And it felt very—I was reading, like, the course of it, and it seemed like they were sort of broken up, but not really, before they officially said they were, but they weren't making any music at that point. So, like—I don't know. And everybody was kind of involved in other things by then. I guess Jenny Lewis went on to do, like, backup singing for different bands and stuff.

**Rileigh:** Okay. So, not as exciting of a breakup, "Where are they now?" story.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Just kind of like, "Oh, no. Good for them." [laughs quietly] Um, I think my favorite song on this album is actually the one that the album's named after, "The Execution of All Things," just because I feel like it—I don't know. It has the most re—not, like, repeatable, but it's the one that gets stuck in my head the most. But also, like, the more you think about what the lyrics are saying and, like, with the music that's kind of more upbeat and lighter, it has, like, that really stark contrast between what she's singing about and what the music is. I don't know. I really like that, 'cause it's one of those that you could just turn on in the background and like, "Oh, this is a pleasant sounding song."

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** "This is a nice song." But also then, like, you sit down and listen to it and you're like, "Oh. Well, hm. Okay." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, that's kind of—to me, like, the album kind of breaks into three segments 'cause that's what, like—"Execution of All Things" and, like, "Paint's Peeling," and "The Good That Won't Come Out" are three, like—I feel like it starts at such kind of a nihilistic place. Like, it doesn't reveal its hand of any kind of hopefulness, 'cause that's like—"The Execution of All Things" and, like, specifically "The Good That Won't Come Out," the first song on the album, I—I—like, it's a very—it's a very smooth intro to something that builds to something a lot more over the course of the album. But, like—like, the lyrics on "The Good That Won't Come Out." I mean, like, specifically the one that sticks in my head, 'cause it's so relevant still is, like, you know, "Let's complain about the disappearing ground while we watch it melt," and it just literally feels like that we're—we can't do anything good. Like, nothing good will come of us. We have all this potential, and we're doing nothing with it."

And I think that that's, you know... I—I don't know. I don't know why I like the pleasant nihilism [laughs] of the first half—of the first three quarters of this album.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, I think that again it is very much, like, the time period you and I sort of came of age, I suppose. That was the, like, dominant mindset, I felt like. I mean, maybe that was just my personal experience, but that was my take on the world, as, like, where is everybody's head space.? Like, "Well, we kind of think everything's goin' to heck, but... we're fine with it." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah, it's fine.

**Sydnee:** I mean, it was very like, "It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine." Like, that was the epitome of that time period was that way of thinking. Like, "Eh, it's fine. It's—you know." It's the late 90's, it's the early 2000's. We don't really know what's happening anymore, but it's—we'll just keep moving forward.

I don't know. That was how I felt. Moving—which I don't know—sometimes I wonder if that has uniquely prepared us for this current—

**Rileigh:** It seems like it's come back around.

**Sydnee:** —[laughs] situation. Where, like, during the pandemic we all had to, like, go into our homes and try to be okay with all the things we couldn't do at that moment. And I felt like, "Okay. I can do—I can do that." [laughs]

**Taylor:** You know, I will agree with that, because I can say, like, you know, I—this—the kind of painful period of my life that this album hearkens back to where I felt like things didn't go right for me, so I just gave up and said, you know, screw it. I'm done. I'm not gonna try. I'm never gonna be anything. I give up. And I gave up for a solid decade, and then I was like, "Aw, crap. I'm still here." [laughs] "I still haven't done anything!" And you can only give up so long before you kind of get tired of giving up, and get back around to trying to do something again. And I think that's where—I don't think I'm alone in, like, the kind of elder millennial mindset of that. Like, I might not do the things that I thought I was gonna do, but that doesn't mean that I can't do anything. And I can weather whatever, 'cause I weathered that. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, and I do think that you're right, in that, like, now I feel that same, like—the fact that things are falling apart does not catch me off guard. [laughs quietly] I felt like that we were trained to expect that. But I do feel a lot more like, "Okay, so what do we do about? So, let's—okay. Okay, so I'm supposed to stay home, got it. Wear a mask, got it. What else do we need to do? Do we need to protest? Do we need to rally? Obviously vote. What do we need to do?"

I feel like a lot more equipped to take that next step, like you said. Not just say, "Well, I give up, then. Nothing can get better." But to say, "Okay. Everything's falling apart. What do we do to fix it? How do we—"

**Taylor:** Well, that's—yeah.

**Sydnee:** "—yeah, rebuild?"

**Taylor:** 'Cause that's what—and anytime—and I get—I totally understand the younger mindset of, like, "We just need to burn it all down!" Like, you know, just whatever. "It's not for us." And I get that. But I always just am like, yeah, but you know what happens when you burn it all down? You're still there, and now you just have a bigger mess to clean up. 'Cause I've done that with my own life, so that's not the answer. We actually have to make it work.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And I mean, right along with that late 90's, early 2000's music, we come right back around fashion, full circle.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Everything's coming back. Maybe, like, we're all just kind of regressing to pretend we're not here anymore. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't know. My youngest, Cooper, told me yesterday that she will not follow orders anymore—

**Rileigh:** Whoa!

**Sydnee:** —out of nowhere, so.

**Taylor:** Okay!

**Sydnee:** Maybe that's the mindset of the new ge—I don't know where that came—I—I—she was about the run down the stairs, and she has trouble on stairs on her own still—

**Rileigh:** Sure, she's very small.

**Sydnee:** —yeah. And so I wanted her to just wait for me so I could walk down next to her. I'm trying to let her have independence. And I said, "Wait, wait, don't go down yet. Wait for mommy."

And she turned around and looked at me and went, "[quiet little kid voice] I don't follow orders anymore."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Did she get that from TikTok?

**Sydnee:** And I went, "What?"

**Rileigh:** Probably.

**Sydnee:** I don't—I don't—I guess? I don't know. I mean, it's—don't get me wrong, though! If that's the mindset of our new generations, I'm not against it.

**Raleigh:** That's my mindset. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't follow orders anymore. I like that. I like where we're going here. Let's keep this up. But... learn how to walk down the stairs safely on your own first. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Um... I, uh—I do wanna—two of my other favorite songs on this album, uh, towards the end, are "With Arms Outstretched" and "Spectacular Views," and I think they kind of pair together well. Uh, and I think it still kind of factors in to this same conversation, because... they're—they're probably two of the more upbeat songs on the album, maybe the most upbeat. Um, and there is a lot of hope in the lyrics, but there's sort of an awareness of, like, when you find a beautiful moment, just—it—you don't have to justify it.

Just enjoy it. Like, you know, you—at some point, good days end. You know, there's, like—I don't know. I think that that's—that's another one of those—those songs both kind of make me, like, very happy, but very kind of teary eyed, because it's just that, like, here's this one day that's really good, and that's it, and that's what we have. And, you know. I don't know.

**Sydnee:** I like that. That's very earnest, and it's also a nice contrast to a lot of the cynicism that existed in that time. Like, a turn away from that and say, like, you don't have to make fun of it to make it okay. Just—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** That's what—I—it's—uh, another very specific, like, memory that's tied "With Arms Outstretched," which is, like, the—you know, it's the one with, like, "This day by the lake went too fast," is the lyric that I'm kind of referencing. And I never—like, I never, had, like, the cool high school memories of, like, I don't know, goin' to do things with large groups of people. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Goin' to the lake.

**Raleigh:** Sure. To the lake.



**Taylor:** But that's the thing. So, it was actually while I was in college, but the one summer that I spent at home was between my freshman and sophomore year, and I—one of my high school friends, I guess, invited me with a bunch of other people that I'd gone to high school with to go cliff jumping at that lake. What was it? Like—

**Sydnee:** Oh, Grayson.

**Raleigh:** Oh, Grayson, yeah.

**Taylor:** Grayson, yeah. And I'd never—I'd heard about it in high school. I was never invited to go. I never went, and I went with this group of people, and we—it just felt like... you know. I got one day like a normal teenager. It was this one day where we, like, drank beers that we shouldn't have been drinking, and dove off cliffs, and... and it felt like I—you know. I never got another one, but that song always kind of linked that day for me. Like, I had that one. And as I can think about all the days that I didn't have, or I can think about that one just perfect day of feeling completely normal.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I will say that cliff jumping is very dangerous. And I don't endorse it.

**Taylor:** It is. It is.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I wouldn't do it now, and I'm glad I got away with it that one day that I did. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's how I feel. I did it once, and I would never do it again. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's—same here. I didn't jump off the really big one.

**Taylor:** No, we didn't—we didn't. We were on just one little cliff. We didn't really go hardcore.

**Sydnee:** No. I do not—I do not—yeah. We on *Still Buffering* do not endorse cliff jumping. [laughs]

**Taylor:** No.

**Rileigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Uh, that is a better lake, though. The other lake that I remember hanging out on was Beech Fork Lake, which is 50% water and 50% carp, and...

**Rileigh:** Oh no.

**Taylor:** Carp?

**Sydnee:** That's a—mm-hmm. You know, the fish?

**Taylor:** Like, fish? It's 50% fish?

**Sydnee:** I don't think it's really 50% fish, but it feels that way.

**Taylor:** Just a lot of fish.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause there's so many. There's so many carp, and carp freak me out.

**Rileigh:** What is it about carp that freak you out?

**Sydnee:** I don't—I don't—I don't know. They just always—

**Rileigh:** Is there not another fish that freaks you out? Is it just the carp?

**Sydnee:** Everybody feeds the fish, uh, at Beech Fork when you first walk on the dock. And so when they hear, like, vibrations on the dock, or footsteps, all of them come to the surface looking for food. And the water around the dock becomes, like, a blanket of carp mouths.

**Rileigh:** I do not enjoy that, actually, now that you describe it that way.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, it's like something from a horror movie. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, you know how I feel about... moderately to large sized fish. I don't like them. So I'm fully against this.

**Sydnee:** [bursts into laughter]

**Rileigh:** Okay, now, wait. What about—

**Sydnee:** I didn't know you had this bias against moderately to large sized fish.

**Taylor:** Small fish are—

**Rileigh:** What about extremely small and extremely large?

**Taylor:** Uh, you know, that's fine. That's fine.

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Taylor:** Very small is cute. That's fine. If it's, like—if it could fit in my hand, that's fine. And if it's like a whale, that is just a majestic creature that I cannot fully process or comprehend, and that's fine. But, like, anything that's, like—I don't know. Just, like, a angry, wet, muscular tube, that could, like, bite me—

**Sydnee:** Ugh.

**Rileigh:** Eww!

**Taylor:** —or touch me, I don't like them. I don't—like, I think I'm actually—like, sharks? Yeah, those are scary, but I respect sharks. But just big fish? Don't like it.

**Sydnee:** No. I don't like it either. It's—'cause even if they can't bite, like, I worry about, like, what suction might feel like from their big—

**Taylor:** Eehh!

**Rileigh:** [shudders]

**Sydnee:** —right? Like, their big fish mouths?

**Rileigh:** [grossed out muttering] Eww.

**Sydnee:** Eugh.

**Taylor:** I—yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't know much about fish—[bursts into laughter]

**Taylor:** Yeah, that's, like—

**Rileigh:** [laughs] I don't either. I think that's becoming very apparent.

**Sydnee:** This is revealing a great deal of ignorance about fish on this podcast.  
[laughs]

**Taylor:** I just don't—I don't like them, and that's where I end it. I—I—like, that's like a—the few times that I've been to, like—where you can, like, feed koi fish—and like, "Oh, how beautiful. What beautiful majestic fish."

I'm like, "No, that's a—that's a nightmare." The idea of just, like, those thrashing, chomping, wet bodies—I don't like 'em. I don't like—I don't like—

**Sydnee:** We're gonna get—we're gonna get a new review on Stillbuff which is, uh—

**Rileigh:** One star. They hate fish.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "This is a bad fish podcast."

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh no, we're bad at fish and we're bad at cereal!

**Rileigh:** We're a bad cereal podcast.

**Sydnee:** I'm sorry. I'm sorry about that.

**Taylor:** And look, if you're—if you're a medium to large, but not too big, sized fish listening to this podcast, I'm sorry. [laughs] I try to be very open-minded and understanding about most things, but not you, buddy. No way.

**Rileigh:** Just not you. That's like—I have one final hypothetical a friend posed on Twitter once that said, "Would you rather have all the bugs we have now, or just

one very, very large bug that existed on the planet?" In its own space. But one very, very large bug that you knew existed, that you were constantly under—under threat of large bug. But, no other bugs.

**Sydnee:** I—okay, two things. One, I like a lot of bugs. Not all bugs. Some of them scare me.

**Raleigh:** There are a lot of bugs I don't like, though.

**Sydnee:** But I like a lot of bugs, and so it's hard for me to say, like, I wouldn't want all the bugs around. 'Cause, like, we like to look at buggies here.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** But, um, my bigger fear is, I don't trust humans. And if there was one very large bug somewhere on Earth, I don't know what humans would decide to do with that power. We're—[laughs] we're very disturbing as a species. I don't know how we would choose to interact with that giant bug.

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Taylor:** We would probably make it out to be some sort of deity, and then we'd fight wars over it. I'm just guessing.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's probably true.

**Taylor:** On our track record. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. There'd be a monument to it somewhere.

**Taylor:** I like the little bugs. No big bug for me.

**Raleigh:** No big bug.

**Sydnee:** No—no big bug.

**Raleigh:** I think I just want to know what big bug would be like.

**Taylor:** I picture him as a wise old beetle.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I was picturing a beetle, too, but, like, if it's a mosquito, that's a bad scene.

**Raleigh:** Right?

**Sydnee:** Right?

**Raleigh:** It just depends. I don't know what kinda bug it is.

**Sydnee:** Mosquitoes are very deadly.

**Taylor:** I think a very large mosquito, though, like, mechanically wouldn't work, right? Like, you...

**Sydnee:** That's true, if it's—yeah.

**Raleigh:** To fly?

**Sydnee:** Well, to, you know.

**Raleigh:** To sting? To poke?

**Sydnee:** Sting—well, bite.

**Taylor:** Suck the blood, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Just gore a hole in you. Uh, I also think that there's—

**Sydnee:** Well, depending on how big it is, its gorer may be bigger than your body.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. It just could [makes slurping noise]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Sloop you up.

**Sydnee:** Ooh. Okay, this is [crosstalk]—

**Taylor:** I feel like—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —I feel like at some point on some probably, like, 3 AM Tumblr discussion, I encountered the knowledge that very large bugs couldn't exist, because there's something about gravity and bug exoskeletons. I don't know.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Somebody'll tell me.

**Sydnee:** This is a bad bug podcast!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** One star!

**Rileigh:** This is a bad bug podcast, too.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh. We know nothing about fish or bugs! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** This is our—this is gonna be our pin for next year, is just gonna be a comment. "One star. Bad bug, cereal, and fish podcast."

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] "Fish podcast." What a good pin, though.

**Taylor:** Syd, did you say what your favorite song on this album was?

**Sydnee:** Uh, you had already—the "Better Son or Daughter."

**Taylor:** Oh, that's yours as well. Okay, alright.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, yeah. That was—that was easily my—and this was my first, um, listening. Listening. [laughs quietly] Listing.

**Taylor:** That's what—if I ever do anything significant enough with my life that I deserve a biopic, I think that it would open to that song. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was very good. That one struck me. And I had heard—I will say that that was one that, like, as it started playing I was like, "Okay. I have—somewhere, I have osmosed this."

**Taylor:** Osmosed. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Um... yeah. But that—

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Really good at words today.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** "My first listening. [laughs quietly] Except I osmosed that one song."

**Taylor:** And I didn't realize until I was kind of doing some research on this album that there is—I guess there's sort of a secret song on this, in that there's a song broken into, like, three parts, that plays at the beginning and end, you know?

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** I think it's—it's "How I Choose to Remember It," or something like that. It's a song about Jenny Lewis's parents getting a divorce, and it's spread throughout the album, and it's really—it's that kind of weird, sing-song, sort of carnival-sounding music that's playing, but I actually read the lyrics, which I've never done before. I'm like, "Oh. That's a whole other element there that I never paid attention to."

**Raleigh:** Wow.



**Taylor:** That the whole thing is framed with a discussion about her—or a song about how she thinks of her parents' divorce.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Wow.

**Sydnee:** I think that, uh—that this was—I'm glad that you brought this, 'cause I have really enjoyed listening to the music. So has Justin, by the way, 'cause we have been listening to it together. And, uh, the girls actually have really enjoyed listening. So, it's been nice—it's become our go-to in the last week for what we have on when we're all just kind of in the house together, playing or hanging out. We usually have music on, and it's become our new go-to music to have on in the background. I know that sounds weird. We talked about how, like, sad it is, that our, like, family time is spent with a backdrop of Rilo Kiley, but that's what we've been doing lately.

**Taylor:** Well, that's good. That makes me happy. Their other albums are great, too. This was the one that was most pertinent to me. But, like, I think *More Adventurous* was the one that followed this, and that one had a ton of good songs on it.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, we've really enjoyed it. And I think it's one of those where, like, listening to it, I don't know why this band wasn't, like, more popular. I mean, I know they were, certainly, but, like, it feels like a band that should've, you know, made—I feel like should still be a bigger deal for the music that they made, 'cause it's really good. [pauses] That's my personal opinion. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Well, thank you for giving it a listen.

**Raleigh:** Great take.

**Taylor:** Both of you.

**Raleigh:** Thank you for—yeah, it was good to go back and relisten. It'd been a while.

**Sydnee:** Well, what's—what's next?

**Raleigh:** Well... next Thursday is October 1st. So... it's the beginning of the—

**Taylor:** Oh ho ho!

**Raleigh:** —of the month of spook. Although I've already started decorating and everything, because it's already fall.

**Sydnee:** Sure, sure.

**Raleigh:** But next Thursday is the official first day of the spooky season. So I wanna talk about *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

**Taylor:** Nice.

**Sydnee:** Yayyy.

**Raleigh:** It is arguably one of my favorite movies of all time, but also just one of the best spooky season movies as well.

**Sydnee:** Well, we will watch it and discuss it. That sounds wonderful.

**Raleigh:** Delightful.

**Sydnee:** Um, it has been chilly here.

**Raleigh:** It has been chilly.

**Sydnee:** So it is—it is time for that kind of thing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, thank you both. Uh, thank you, listeners. Um, I hope you enjoyed this bad fish, bug, cereal podcast.

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh—

**Raleigh:** I'm gonna change our subtitle to that.

**Taylor:** Um, we—[laughs]

**Sydnee:** We are *Still Buffering*.

**Raleigh:** Hello, and welcome to—

**Taylor:** We know nothing about fish, bugs, or cereal.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Yeah. Hello, and welcome to *Still Buffering*: a bad fish, bug, cereal podcast.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Fish bug cereal sounds terrible!

**Raleigh:** That does sound very bad.

**Taylor:** No thanks!

**Sydnee:** It's important. It's—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** The commas there are very important.

**Sydnee:** It's important to know your strengths. Embrace—embrace your weaknesses as part of who you are.

**Taylor:** I will not embrace a fish. You can't make me.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Uh, you can Tweet at us...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** @stillbuff. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** About how bad we are at talking about bugs and fish! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** If it's a question about bugs or fish or cereal, we won't know the answer. Same if you email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org). We won't know the answer there, either.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um, ask my husband about cereal. Don't ask any of us about the other things. We don't know.

**Taylor:** The extent of my bug knowledge is apparently, "They can't get big, maybe?" I don't know. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] And with fish, I think there might be some sucking, suction type thing there that freaks me out.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] Anyway. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [sighs]

**Sydnee:** Thank you to Maximum Fun for hosting our show. You should go to [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org) for a lot of wonderful podcasts that we think you would enjoy... that may discuss these topics in a more enlightened fashion.

**Taylor:** If you have a very good bug, fish, and/or cereal podcast, let us know!

**Sydnee:** Let us know! We'll tell other people to listen to that one.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Not this one.

**Sydnee:** Instead of this, about that. Um, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[theme music begins in the background]

**Rileigh:** This has been, um, your bad fish, cereal, and bug podcast. [through laughter] I'm Rileigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Rileigh:** I'm still buffering...

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

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And none of us knew anything about those three things.

**Sydnee:** I'm sorry!

**Taylor:** Ohh... I don't want fish facts in my head. I do not allow them.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Fair enough.

**Rileigh:** That's fair.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

[theme music plays and ends]

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[music plays]

**Speaker One:** Hey, you like movies? What about coming up with movie ideas over the course of an hour? 'Cause that's what we do every week on *Story Break*, a writer's room podcast where three Hollywood professionals have an hour to come up with a pitch for a movie or TV show based off of totally zany prompts.

**Speaker Two:** Like that time we reimagined *Star Wars*, based on our phone's autocomplete!

**Speaker One:** Luke Skywalker is a family man, and it's *Star Wars*, but it's a good idea.

**Speaker Two:** Okay. [laughs]

**Speaker Three:** How about the time we wrote the story of a bunch of Disney channel original movies, based solely on the title on the poster.

**Speaker One:** Okay, Sarah Hyland is the 50 Foot Woman. Let's just go with it, guys.

**Speaker Two:** Or the time we finally cracked the Adobe Photoshop feature film.

**Speaker One:** Stamp tool is your Woody, and then the autofill is the new Buzz Lightyear.

[laughs]

**Speaker One:** Join us as we have a good time imagining all the movies [dramatic voice] Hollywood is too cowardly to make! *Story Break* comes out every Thursday on Maximum Fun. I don't know why I'm using this voice now.

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