

Sawbones 230: "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993)

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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 Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: So, uh...

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: How—[laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: We are recording this episode—[laughs] I feel like the day that we're recording this is relevant.

Rileigh: It's very important. It is Wednesday, September 30th, today.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: That's important, um, because the debate was last night, so just, you know. Give us—show us a little grace. [laughs]

Taylor: Slow recovery.

Rileigh: It's—oh man. [laughs]

Sydnee: Um, we're not hungover. I know that's what that sounded like. We're not hungover. I mean, we just—

Taylor: Oh, I—I am. But no. [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh. [laughs]

Raleigh: I think, like, emotionally, I am hungover. [laughs]

Taylor: I am hungover from, uh, democracy and whiskey sours. They didn't pair well, weirdly enough. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Well, that's why Trump tried to take all the democracy away, so.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Do you think fascism will pair better with your whiskey sour? [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Uh, no, I think I would need a vodka base for that.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Fair. Can you—can I just go to sleep and wake up after the election's over? Is that... can I do that? I don't want to be—

Raleigh: Will the election ever be over? 'Cause I don't know.

Taylor: Exactly.

Sydnee: I don't wanna be present for this [laughs] anymore. Is that possible?

Raleigh: I—I have already voted by mail and early, so at this point I'm just like, I don't—I don't need to watch any of this, right? I don't need to be a part of any of this.

Sydnee: Well, I mean, obviously we didn't need to watch any of it for making a decision.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: The decision's been made for a long time, but...

Rileigh: But then I'm a political science student, and all my classes are like, "So, everyone watched the debate, right? Let's talk about it."

Sydnee: That was not a debate.

Rileigh: No. I don't wanna—I don't wanna analyze it. I don't wanna talk about it. I don't wanna think about it ever again.

Taylor: I mean, you—

Sydnee: Me neither. I wanna—

Taylor: No. You would need a transcript just to begin to analyze it! Like...

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: I don't think—I don't think anyone spoke a full sentence.

Taylor: No.

Rileigh: The whole night. Maybe at the very end. Maybe.

Sydnee: I was just relieved when—when Joe Biden finally said, "Shut up, man." [laughs quietly] "Will you shut up, man?"

Rileigh: [laughs] That was... hm. I was just relieved when it was over. [laughs]

Sydnee: There was that, too. Man, shut up.

Taylor: He also told him to shush at one point, [through laughter] which is...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: And then he called him a clown for the second time. And then was like, "Uh, I mean, this person." And I was like, "No, Joe, go ahead and say clown again. It's fine."

Sydnee: [simultaneously] It's fine. Do you know what we're saying at home?!

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Um...

Taylor: Don't wanna break out any harsh language here. But, uh...

Rileigh: Yeah, then he told him to shush up after telling him to shut up. I was like, "That's not—you go ahead. It's okay."

Sydnee: Come on, man. Um... [laughs quietly] in—in better news, the trailer for the new Craft came out. The new—*The Craft*, the new *The Craft*. The...

Taylor: The Cra—*The Craft: Legacy*.

Sydnee: It's like a—

Taylor: Is what it's called.

Sydnee: Yes. *The Craft: Legacy*. It's like a, um, sequel, but also sort of remake, I think, right?

Taylor: Yes. So it is supposed to take place like it's—the other movie happened before this. And there's that one odd moment in the trailer where one of the new four Craft... people... uh—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: —had—[laughs quietly] *The Craft Services* have a picture of Nancy from the first movie. Uh, which is actually just a still from the movie. Uh, so that was a

little weird, 'cause it was a very iconic still. Like, it's—it's—you know, a—I don't know how—they couldn't get, like, a snapshot of Fairuza Balk. They had to actually just [laughs] take a still from the movie.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I thought that was very odd, too. Uh, the—but it does appear—sort of like when they do sequels, but they're really just kind of using the same plot again. I feel like this is a common theme. It's like a remake-quel kind of thing.

Taylor: Remake-quel?

Raleigh: Like *Mean Girls 2*. Or *Grease 2*.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well... but, I mean, *Grease 2* is so far superior—

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: —to the original that it's hard to...

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: You know.

Raleigh: I'm sorry I mentioned *Grease 2*. It just came out.

Taylor: [groans] Why did you do that?

Sydnee: Speaking of *Grease 2*... [laughs]

Raleigh: No. That's not what we're talking about!

Taylor: I—I think that the—the—Syd, you said the—the—the trailer's gettin' some heat, right? Like, it's, uh, people aren't happy about it. But I don't know how much of that's just nostalgia hate.

Sydnee: Yeah. I saw people not exactly thrilled, thinking it didn't look particularly exciting. Um, I don't know if it's because—it looks, like, similar to the original. There's, like, a new—a new girl moves to town and kind of joins this already collected, almost complete coven of three, very similar to the plot of the original. Um, so I don't know if that was—and then things seemed to get out of hand, at least that's what the trailer would imply.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, which is like the first. So I don't know if that was the feeling. Um, I was just—I'm fine with it. Even if it's just like the first. I—I love *The Craft*. I will happily watch the remake-quel. Um, and if Nancy shows up in it, that's a bonus.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I don't think she's in it. I think that that's been—people have figured that out, that, like, she's not credited, or wasn't a part of it. I don't know. I would—but—I... I was just—and I don't wanna judge it on this, but I was a little bummed by the fashion, uh, of the characters.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I just wanted some goth looks. Or at least one of 'em to be kind of goth feeling. They were all very brightly colored, but that's a personal preference.

Sydnee: Is that—is that what goth looks like now?

[pause]

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: No...

Taylor: I don't—

Sydnee: I don't know. I'm asking!

Taylor: —I'm not a child I don't—[crosstalk]—

Sydnee: I'm not young. I'm not hip. [laughs]

Taylor: I don't think goth changes. Like, I think goth—it's like, you might get some different details generation to generation, but at least it's—it's gotta still be black, right?

Raleigh: I think so.

Taylor: That's the whole point of goth! [laughs]

Sydnee: All—all of our, um, reality is so dark right now, maybe—maybe the real, like, anti-culture, maybe the real, like... goth, would be... to wear bright colors.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: No, no. I'm against all of—no. You don't get to—no.

Sydnee: Maybe? [laughs quietly]

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: I don't know. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: The looks from the first one were just so good.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: So powerful.

Raleigh: They're just so good. I'd be fine if they wore the same exact costumes.

Taylor: Right? Like, it was just the mashup of, like, that—that school uniform that apparently has incredibly loose guidelines.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: So—but it was the slight overlay of, like, Catholic uniform but goth. What a good aesthetic.

Sydnee: It is weird, considering that, like... we went to a school for a while where we had to wear uniforms. And we—I mean... like, you could not have done—I got in trouble for wearing dangly earrings.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Once. Do you know what they were?

Raleigh: What were they?

Sydnee: They were little gold hearts that had a photo of the cast of *90210* in them. [laughs]

Raleigh: [bursts into laughter]

Taylor: Rebel!

Raleigh: You're lying. You're lying!

Sydnee: No, I'm not lying.

Raleigh: Sydnee! Why did—

Sydnee: 'Cause I loved that show back then, and I got these earrings that had the whole cast of *90210* in these little gold hearts, and they were dangly. And I remember the teacher saying, "We only allow the little studs."

Raleigh: Posts, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. You can't—you can't wear dangly earrings. And I was so—I had to take 'em off and put 'em in my backpack, and it was such a bummer. So it—but anyway, it—I don't think you could get by with the outfits they wore in the original *The Craft*.

Raleigh: Oh yeah.

Taylor: No I remember—

Raleigh: I got in trouble once 'cause my socks were too short.

Taylor: [laughs] I—I, uh, I wore pants... once. Um, which was allowed. You could—you know, I was given the—the girl uniform, but you were allowed to wear pants as a girl. But, uh, they just would treat you poorly [laughs] if you did!

Raleigh: Yeah. And then I knew—when I was in 6th grade, there were older girls that wore the skirts that were like, "But you can roll up the top to make it shorter, so it doesn't have to be knee length." But then... they got in trouble. And they, like, pulled out the ruler and they were like, "This is not... " Did they do uniform checks on you all? Like, every few days, someone would just come into your classroom like, "Alright, everyone up. We're gonna check everyone's uniform." [pause] 'Cause that was just a weird, like...

Sydnee: I don't remember those.

Raleigh: ... fashion show. Like, everyone parades across the front of the classroom like, "No, your shirt's not tucked in enough. No, those shoes are too... much of a mix of black and white. They either can only be all black or all white. It can't be both." [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I don't remember that. I just remember, uh, people, mainly boys, getting yelled at in the hallway if they had their hands in their pockets.

Raleigh: Really?

Sydnee: That's the only thing I remember about—the earring incident, the great earring incident [laughs quietly] of 3rd grade, and then, uh, the principal walking along the hallways and yelling at boys. "[mock yelling] Get your hands out of your pockets!"

Raleigh: Hm.

Sydnee: Because they were up to no good. [laughs]

Taylor: That's what that means.

Sydnee: That's what that means, when you put your hands in your pockets.

Raleigh: Yeah. Exactly.

Sydnee: We have already talked about *The Craft* before, though.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Yeah, we have.

Sydnee: So we can't talk about that again.

Taylor: But it is—we are—I mean, by the time you're listening to this, we will be in spooky season, officially spooky season.

Raleigh: Yes!

Sydnee: So it was—yes. And so of course we had to—if there was a new *The Craft*, of course we had to mention it. I mean, we had to.

Raleigh: And I'm sure we'll talk about it when it is available to watch.

Sydnee: Yes. But Raleigh, what are we actually talking about?

Raleigh: We're talking about *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

Sydnee: Yayyy!

Taylor: Aw yes.

Raleigh: Yes. Um, it's, I think—

Sydnee: Now.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] Right now.

Sydnee: As—as Taylor pointed out, this is now.

Taylor: It's America.

Rileigh: This is currently happening. Um, it's always been in one of my, like, top 5 favorite movies of all time. Not just spooky movies, just all movies, all time. I have always found it very comforting. I also just find claymation movies very comforting, because there's something about them that's just like, "This is—this is nice." Um, but I don't know. Just something about the music and the songs, and Jack Skellington just bein' a spooky guy, but he wants to experience the magic of Christmas. Like... it's very heartwarming. And also, it—it's a movie for two seasons. You could watch it at Halloween, or you could watch it at Christmas, and there aren't a lot of movies that you can do that.

Taylor: That is true.

Sydnee: It's, like, that, and... *Krampus*.

[pause]

Rileigh: [snorts] Sure. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That's—that's true.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Rileigh: Sure. They're basically the same movie! [laughs]

Taylor: Uh, or *Silent Night, Deadly Night*. Or, uh, *Black Christmas* is another one.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm, okay, yeah.

Taylor: But not a—there are not a lot of kid's movies [through laughter] you can watch in both seasons.

Rileigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: That's fair. That's a really good point. Um, I—

Rileigh: I did wanna ask if Charlie and Cooper were able to—

Sydnee: Nope.

Rileigh: —get in with this.

Sydnee: We—we watched up til... I always wanna call him [laughs] the wrong name. [laughs]

Rileigh: [through laughter] Who?

Sydnee: Oogie Boogie.

Rileigh: Oh, okay.

Sydnee: Yeah. I kept calling him variations of that, and then Charlie would say, "[mockingly] You're saying it wrong!"

Rileigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: 'Cause that's what kids do to their parents. Um, yes. He, uh—he was too much for the girls. They were out. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Actually, I think Cooper would've kept watching, but...

Rileigh: Charlie was out.

Sydnee: Charlie was terrified. And every time I tried to get her to watch the rest of the movie with me she was like, "No!"

And I was like, "How 'bout I'll skip past Oogie Boogie, and then you can just watch."

And she was like, "No!"

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: I will say, like, on a rewatch, there is a lot of disturbing character design that—I mean, it's definitely a kid's movie in content, but some of those—the creepy people of Halloweentown—I just, you know, the clown with the tearaway face? That's—that's a concept. Uh, then there's the guy that just has the cleaver in his head. Like, that's—Everyone else is like, "Oh, I'm a vampire, I'm a skeleton."

"I'm just a dude that was murdered. [laughs quietly] Walkin' around." [laughs]

Sydnee: It's, uh—it's very, um—I always found it a little... it's funny that you say you found it comforting, because it was never—and I'm not saying I dislike the movie. I like it. I appreciate it. I think—anything stop motion, by the way, for me—when I start thinking about, like, the work that went in to making it, I get—

Raleigh: That's always crazy to think about, yeah.

Sydnee: Yes. I get overwhelmed thinking about how, like, miraculous the creation of these films are. So, like, I can fully appreciate all these things. I think the music's great, and I get why people like it. I always found it kind of gross?

Raleigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: And kind of disturbing. And so it was never one of my favorites, for that reason.

Raleigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: That's just my admission. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Um, I do think, though, that it's like *Coraline* or, um, *The Corpse Bride*, all of which I love, um, where it is a kid's movie, I guess, and it is, like, animated, kind of, the stop motion, the claymation, but when you get into it, there are some parts in there that are even upsetting and disturbing for adults. Um, I mean, Oogie Boogie, or however—I don't know how Charlie would prefer it to—[laughs quietly] to be spoken. Um, he is a genuinely creepy character design. Like, the—the burlap sack that talks and moves like it does, and yeah, I get it.

Sydnee: He's full of bugs!

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: It does—

Rileigh: He's full of bugs!

Taylor: It makes me feel a little better at the begi—when the, uh—when, uh, Lock, Stock, and Barrel are singing their song about what they're gonna do to Santa Claus, and they feed a bug to Oogie Boogie. And it's like, you know—I was really sad for that bug, 'cause that bug didn't do anything wrong. But then when you find out that he is just made of a bunch of bugs I'm like, "Oh, okay. So he didn't really eat the bug. The bug just joined his bug friends, and became a [crosstalk]—

Rileigh: So the bug was just—[laughs quietly] yeah. The bug was just at a party. [laughs]

Taylor: Just join the one, the many, we are Oogie Boogie. [laughs]

Rileigh: We are bug. [laughs]

Sydnee: I like that you were more concerned about the possible death of the bug than the possible death of Santa Claus, which is also raised as, like, a concern in the film.

Taylor: [laughs] I didn't think they'd straight-up murder Santa.

Sydnee: Yes. That, also, I will say—Charlie brought that up later.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] That freaked out Charlie, right?

Sydnee: She said—she said later—she was like, "So... did they... were they gonna, um, you know... " 'cause she—she doesn't like to say those words, "kill," or "die," or "death." Which I guess it a good thing.

Rileigh: That's fair, yeah.

Sydnee: I guess? I don't know. But she was like, "Were they gonna, um... [quietly] make Santa, you know... [whispers] die?"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I was like, "No! No, Santa's not gonna die. Santa can't... die."

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "Noo! Uhh... " [laughs] "Let's not talk about—let's never watch this."

Rileigh: Interesting concept to think about. [laughs]

Sydnee: "You know what? When you're ready, you let me know. [laughs] And we'll discuss this film again."

But it was like—she got very upset at the idea. Like, "Why would they hurt Santa? Why do they wanna kill Santa? What is wrong with you, mom, for showing me this movie?!" [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Well, that's—

Sydnee: Cooper's just sitting there like, "I love it."

Taylor: Taking notes, yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Cooper likes to play zombie all the time. Like, so...

Rileigh: Oh, we should—they have those masks of the three that sing "Kidnap the Sandy Claws," the three little... what are their names, Tey?

Taylor: Lock, Stock, and Barrel?

Rileigh: Yes, yes. Um, they have those masks at the Spirit Halloween.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: You should get one for Cooper. I feel like she would wear it.

Sydnee: She—we got her Sam from *Trick 'r Treat*.

Rileigh: Lil Punkit.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, Lil Punkit. We got her one of those masks. Oh my gosh. That is our favorite prank to play on each other. We use our kids for pranks, Justin and I.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, we'll [laughs quietly] enlist one of them to stand outside, like, the bathroom door wearing that mask, and just wait for the other one to come out. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: That's very good.

Taylor: You've gotta get Cooper the whole costume. Get her that little orange jumpsuit, the lollipop.

Sydnee: They have it. You can get it. We got 'em both one of the lollipop, 'cause they sell, like—they're actually lollipops that they sell. Um, but yeah, we'll have to—they have the whole costume. Anyway. [laughs]

Taylor: Good. Yeah, well—

Sydnee: Cooper's—Cooper's into the macabre.

Taylor: How—I was wondering when I was rewatching, how would a parent explain the, uh—the constant poisoning of the doctor by Sally? 'Cause I kind of forgot that too. I was like, "Oh, right. She just—just keeps poisoning him." [laughs] And, like... like, I remembered that relationship being pretty dysfunctional, and it's like, I mean, yeah, he—you know he created her and keeps her locked up, but she also just keeps trying to kill him, I guess.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I didn't ask Charlie much about that. 'Cause she—like, she wrote it off to me at one point. We were watching and she went, "She's sort of like Frankenstein."

[pause]

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: And I was like—like a similar idea, like the...

Raleigh: Pieced together, and...

Sydnee: Pieced together, created by a—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Made by another person, sure.

Sydnee: —by a scientist, that kind of thing. And so, like, she was drawing that connection, and I said, "Yeah." But that was as far as it went, and I was like, "We're just gonna let that... we're just gonna let that go." [laughs] I'm not gonna—maybe—maybe 6 is too young, is what I have learned for this. Maybe 6 is too young.

Raleigh: Yeah, I don't think—I think the first time I watched I was at some point in middle school, because we were doing our Christmas concert in choir class, and for one of the songs in our Christmas concert, we sang "Kidnap the Sandy Claws."

And I remember we were going over this song, and they were, like, [holding back laughter] auditioning for solos to do the three little solo parts that the kids have. And I was like, "What is this—what are we singing? What is this from?" And I remember going home and watching it just, like, "Oh. Okay. I get it now." Um... but it's a very disturbing moment. But Santa Claus is fine at the end.

Sydnee: [laughs] Do not worry. Santa Claus does not die in this film.

Rileigh: Don't worry. Santa Claus does not die.

Sydnee: If you were thinking that this was a movie we were recommending for kids in which Santa Claus dies, it's not. Don't worry. That would be rough.

Taylor: There are dead people, but not Santa.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yeah, I saw someone had made a blog about how they think everybody in the movie died, to look the way they do in the movie. And I started to read it, and then I was like, "I am finding this very upsetting."

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "I don't—I kinda don't wanna know any more."

Taylor: Oh, like, all the people in Halloweentown?

Sydnee: Yeah. Like, how did Jack Skellington die?

Rileigh: Well, have you seen the theory that, um—oh, what is it? *The Corpse Bride*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and *Frankenweenie* I think is the other one, are all, like, connected? Like, they're the same guy? 'Cause, like, *Frankenweenie* it's a little kid, and then he looks like a younger version of the guy from *Corpse Bride*, and the guy from *Corpse Bride*—

Sydnee: Becomes Jack Skellington?

Rileigh: —becomes Jack Skellington?

Taylor: I... what?! No. No.

Rileigh: This is—I'm just saying—

Taylor: I don't believe that.

Rileigh: —I saw they were all connected, because Zero is also in at least two of them, if not all of them, and is not a ghost in all of them.

Taylor: I think it's just—

Raleigh: But is with that male character.

Taylor: I think Tim Burton just likes his tall, gaunt, spooky protagonists.

Raleigh: That's also... possible. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, where does Edward Scissorhands fit into this? [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh man, I didn't even think about him! [laughs]

Taylor: They're all the—it's all the same.

Raleigh: Um, I think Jack Skellington, though, is one of the... best Tim Burton characters. He's very complex. He's got a lot goin' on, and he's very spooky to look at. But, the song—what is it? Is it just called "What's This?" When he first gets to Christmastown. Like, that's such a good song, and such a good scene! Like, him just looking at all the Christmas stuff like, "What's going on?"

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: It's so good!

Taylor: I love some of the lyrics in that, 'cause they're so silly! Like, "No one's throwing heads. Absolutely no one is dead!" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] And he goes and creeps on the elves sleeping and looks under. He's like, "[gasps] There's nothing under the bed!" [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Well, Jack Skellington is—is one of—there are a couple literary Jacks that I named my cat Jack after, but Jack Skellington is one of the main ones, because I have a tuxedo cat, so he's black and white. I call him Jack Cattington.

Raleigh: Ohhh.

Taylor: 'Cause he's a cat and not a skelling—a skelly—skelly—

Raleigh: Right.

Taylor: —skeleton. I forgot the word "skeleton." Sorry!

Raleigh: Skellington. He's not a skellington.

Taylor: [through laughter] He's not a skellington. [laughs]

Sydnee: It's—it's really interesting, 'cause if you look at, like—aside from that it is spooky—I mean, it is—and it can, especially for little kids, be downright scary. Um, and it does deal with, like, themes of death. And it does have—I agree. I think the characters are multifaceted, you know? I mean, they're not—they're not just like, good guy, bad guy, love interest. Like, they're way more than that. Um, it's—it's interesting to me that it was allowed to be made.

Raleigh: Really?

Sydnee: It feels like the kind of film that, like, slipped under the radar. Like, it's so good. You would've expected somebody somewhere to be like, "Oh, no. Mm-mm. No. Too scary for kids. Nope."

But it's so good, and it exists! It feels like a secret little present that, like—I guess maybe just 'cause it was Tim Burton they were like, "Well, okay. Alright. We'll let you do this." And it's so good.

Raleigh: That's why I couldn't believe it was on Disney+! I went to go watch it and I was like, "This is on—this is with Disney movies?"

Sydnee: Right, it's a Disney movie!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But I guess it was released under a different...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. It used to be on Netflix.

Sydnee: ... something, yeah.

Raleigh: It used to not be Disney.

Sydnee: Because they wanted to—they were—they didn't want to bring it out as a Disney film right away.

Rileigh: 'Cause then you have lots of little kids come to see it.

Sydnee: Exactly. 'Cause then, you know, parents have this expectation. Like, "Well, if it's a Disney movie, then it will all be happy and, you know. [laughs] There won't be an almost dead Santa Claus."

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Well, I think more so that—'cause there are certain lessons that you could pull from, like, *Coraline* or *Corpse Bride*. They kind of have still traditional ideas behind them. But I was trying to, like—what is the message of—of, uh, *Nightmare Before Christmas*? What is it trying to tell us? I don't really think that there is something, 'cause it's like, you look at Jack Skellington's character arc and, you know, he tries something new, and through that he's like, "Naw, I'm a spooky dude." And then he's spooky again, and that's kind of the story. [laughs] Like... stick—stick to your thing? That's—

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Taylor: If your thing is bein' dead and spooky, just do that, man!

Sydnee: Stick to what you're good at?

Rileigh: Yep.

Taylor: Is that what it's telling us? I don't know!

Sydnee: No. Maybe it's a, "The grass isn't always greener" kind of thing. Like, he was—he'd been in this line of work for a long time, he—

Rileigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —he—[laughs quietly] he—

Rileigh: The pumpkin king line of work.

Sydnee: Right, the pumpkin king kind of work. He'd kind of lost the joy in it. He'd forgotten all the reasons that he was drawn to it, perhaps, in the first place. He saw this new thing and was like, "Well, maybe what I need to do, instead of trying to, like, dig deeper in myself and into my craft, maybe I just need to, like, try something else."

And what he learned was, like, no, sometimes you just gotta do the hard work on yourself and your own path, and rediscover... the joy. Is this anything? Did I find anything here?

Taylor: I don't—

Raleigh: May—hmm.

Taylor: I don't know.

Raleigh: Maybe?

Sydnee: I don't know.

Raleigh: But, I mean, also you've got Sally's storyline, which is—again, she's not just, like, love interest Sally. She starts trying to poison the scientist that made her. Like, those are first several scenes. Um, but by the end, like, Jack saves her, and in the very last scene is that little—that little moment between them. That, uh, you know, Jack's like, "Oh, how did I not realize? You were here all along." Like, that kind of—that kind of thing. But also, Sally was, like, a heroine, kind of, too. So that's a complex female character to throw in there.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yeah. I actually think that it's really—even though it is kind of hard to probably explain, if Charlie had really noticed, like, "Is she poisoning him?" Um—[laughs] "Is she trying to murder him?"

Raleigh: She's trying to murder him. [laughs]

Sydnee: She's trying to murder him. Uh, it is—it's an important part of the plot, because it keeps her from being a pure damsel in distress. Like, I mean, she might be distressed, but she's doin' something about it.

Rileigh: She's trying to get herself out of it.

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah. Um, one thing I wanted to talk to you all about was when Jack first goes through the Christmas door, it shows all the other doors there. And, like, you have Halloweentown. It's full of the spooky people and the pumpkin king, and of course, like, bats and graveyards and all that kind of stuff. Sure. Christmastown, you've got elves and Santa and snow, Christmas trees. Make sense. The other doors were Easter door, St. Patrick's Day door, and Valentine's Day door, I think.

Sydnee: I thought there was a Thanksgiving door.

Rileigh: And Thanksgiving, yes. I want to know what those towns would be full of! Like, what is—what is Eastertown full of? It's just the one bunny! Is it just the Easter bunny? Is that just where he lives by himself? It's just his house?

Taylor: Aww, it's just a bunny! Just a bunny alone with a big ol' pile of eggs. Maybe it's got, like—

Rileigh: Is that it?! [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I don't know! Maybe, like, the eggs dance around? Sometimes the Easter bunny is accompanied by, like, an ambient chick—chicken. You know? So maybe there's that. Just, there's some little chickens.

Sydnee: Can you imagine, though, if—as scary as Halloweentown is supposed to be, is there anything more horrifying than you open the door to Eastertown and it's, like, a giant gaping black void of nothingness—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: A room with a bunny.

Sydnee: —with just a single human-sized bunny! Holding a basket, and watching a calendar for his time. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: That reminds me, do you remember the, uh—the *Invader Zim* episode where they're on the bus and they're, like, heading towards a weird dimension, and the dimension that they're heading towards is just called a room with a moose, and they're all terrified of ending up in the room with a moose? [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes. [laughs]

Taylor: A room with a bunny. [laughs]

Sydnee: That's all it is. And he's just standing there, staring. Waiting.

Raleigh: And then, Thanksgiving door?! Is that just—are there just turkeys? What else—I mean, again—

Taylor: Well, I mean, there's some problematic whitewashing of history inside.

Raleigh: Oh, your right.

Taylor: That's like—is it woke Thanksgivingtown where they're like, "Hey, so here's the—we're not gonna sing a song. We're actually gonna give a very [laughs] earnest speech." [laughs]

Raleigh: We're gonna teach you a lesson about real history. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It's either that, or it's a tree full of turkeys awaiting sacrifice, which is also very morbid. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I think that somewhere out there, somebody did, like, a goof video of if Jack had gone to, um, St. Patrick's Day town instead, and it's like a bunch of drunk people falling over in the [through laughter] street and puking up green beer. I'm like, yeah, that would—you wouldn't wanna go there. I've been to St. Patrick's Day Town, uh, here in New York City on St. Patrick's Day, and that is not... that is not a place I wanna go.

Sydnee: It's funny, 'cause that was one of the—I was reading about the movie, um, and I guess there's always been a lot of pressure to make a sequel, because it was so successful. There's always been this like, "We should make another one

of these things, make a bunch more money." [laughs] "People really seem to like this."

And, uh—and Tim Burton was like, "I don't really—I don't want that to happen. I don't really envision, like—" and I think that was one of the examples was, like, what—what happens next? Like, Jack goes to Thanksgivingtown? And, like, that's not what—

Rileigh: That's nothing.

Sydnee: That wasn't the future he wanted, of this very beautiful movie that he had created. Like, and now... let's check out, I don't know.

Rileigh: The turkeys.

Sydnee: Valentinstown.

Taylor: Ooh.

Rileigh: Is that just... Cupid?

[pause]

Sydnee: Just a giant naked baby.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: With a bow and arrow.

Rileigh: Yeah. Sitting on a throne made of, like, those tiny Valentine's Day cards that you pass out when you're in elementary school. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Just—and, like, waterfalls of candy hearts.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. See, when I envisioned Eastertown—

Sydnee: [laughs] That's kinda cool.

Rileigh: —it was more like that. Not, like, a bunny in a void.

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Taylor: Yeah, no. Like, I don't think envisioned—

Raleigh: Like, you open the door—

Taylor: —a bunny in a void but Sydnee. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs] I didn't envision the bunny void. I envisioned, like, you open the door, and you've opened the door into the bunny's, like, house. His apartment, if you will. His loft.

Taylor: The bunny has an apartment?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [hiccuping laughter]

Raleigh: And it's just, like, him sitting there—

Taylor: Is it, like, a studio? A... like, a 1.5? What's he got?

Raleigh: Yeah, like, open floor plan. [laughs] Um—

Taylor: Loft? He's got a loft?

Raleigh: —and he's just, like, sittin' there in a chair—

Sydnee: How much is he payin' for it? [laughs] Is he movin' out soon? [laughs]

Taylor: This is a—this is a rate—is it stabilized bunny—bunny [crosstalk]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Maybe he's looking for a new place.

Raleigh: Maybe the other tenants are, like, the chicks or the eggs, you know. Um, but he's like—he's got a chair made of, uh, I don't know, Easter eggs? Chocolate bunnies? Maybe he's a bunny sitting on a bunch of chocolate bunnies?

Sydnee: Ugh! [laughs]

Rileigh: And he's just sitting there like—you open the door and he's like, "Hey, sup. What's up. I've still got a few months until my day, so you wanna... hang out? Watch a movie?" [laughs]

Taylor: Just him painting eggs. I like the idea that he's just—you know, he's kind of a loner type. He's alone with his eggs. Just me and my eggs, just, you know... hangin' out.

Sydnee: In his empty void!

Taylor: No...

Rileigh: No!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Why does—why does Cupid get a big—a big space for his giant naked baby butt, and—and the Easter bunny is just left in a void?!

Sydnee: I—I have always—I have always found the Easter bunny... kind of scary, I think.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is where this is rooted. I have always thought, like—because as we've—and we've talked about this before. There are two choices for the Easter bunny. It is either like a bunny-sized—like an actual bunny...

Taylor: Right.

[pause]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... that is just, like—

Rileigh: It's magical.

Sydnee: —magical, and maybe can talk, but isn't gonna. That's scary. And then somehow transports all these baskets of candy, which, how does it do that? It doesn't have opposable thumbs or whatever. So, like, all of that's really challenging. And then the alternative is that it's a human-sized... rabbit man, or woman... I'm not gonna gender this bunny. A human-sized rabbit... human.

Taylor: [laughs quietly] A human-sized rabbit human. Right.

Sydnee: [laughs] That—

Raleigh: That does have opposable thumbs, and feet, and...

Sydnee: And can talk?!

Raleigh: And can talk? And will?

Sydnee: And will?!

Raleigh: Hmm? [laughs]

Sydnee: All of these are terrifying!

Raleigh: There's a Halloween maze that we usually do here every Halloween. We're obviously not doing it this year, but we have, like, different characters from different films and stuff dressed up for kids to, like, get candy from. And at the end of it, there's always Santa at the end of it. Um—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: —but also—

Sydnee: This doesn't make sense, but carry on.

Raleigh: —but also the Easter bunny is there.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: And the Easter bunny costume they have for the Easter bunny is just a giant—I mean, even bigger than human-sized. Like, too big to be a human, giant

rabbit, with giant eyes that do not move. Dead eyes. [laughs quietly] And it is—it is horrifying.

Sydnee: That's—our cultural depiction of the Easter bunny as a giant bunny...

Rileigh: I did never like the—

Sydnee: It's scary.

Rileigh: —I never liked the thought of a giant bunny in the house, like, leaving stuff for me.

Taylor: Have either of you ever seen *The Guardians*, though? That, uh, animated movie where it's—they've got all the guardians of the seasons, or of the holidays. There's, like, a—

Rileigh: Ohh, yeah!

Taylor: —Santa Claus is in it, Jack Frost is, like, one of the main characters. Uh, but the Easter bunny in that I think is, you know—that's who I picture, because it's a not—it's a cool Easter bunny, not a scary one. He is a man-sized Easter bunny, but he's, like—he's like a—he's got an attitude. He's a tough bunny. And I think he has maybe some tattoo-like patterns, too? I don't know.

Rileigh: Ohh, okay.

Sydnee: There's also that really cool depiction of the Easter bunny in that, um—in that other stop motion—you know what I'm talking about? [pause] And the Easter bunny, um...

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It's the same as, like, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, and The Year Without a Santa Claus—

Taylor: Oh, oh.

Sydnee: —and all that. But the Easter one.

Taylor: Oh yeah, is that like—he's, like, a cool Easter bunny with, like, a hat. I think he's got a hat.

Sydnee: He ends up with a hat.

Taylor: He ends up with—okay.

Sydnee: Initially he's just like a—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: He ends up with a hat.

Sydnee: —like a naked—[laughs quietly] I think he's just, like, a naked bunny. But he, like, talks. And he, like, walks around and... remember? They have to trick the—there's some—oh, there's something in the mountains. He can't carry him over to Easter Town. He needs to get his Easter eggs to Easter town.

Raleigh: Is this the secret sequel to *Nightmare Before Christmas*?!

Sydnee: Anyway. It's—it's as fun movie. [laughs]

Taylor: I think—I think, uh—I think human-sized bunnies can be done right. What about Bugs Bunny? Bugs Bunny's not scary!

Raleigh: Okay, yeah.

Taylor: It's Bugs Bunny with an Easter basket. I'm down with that. I'm down with him coming to hang out with us.

Raleigh: I'd be okay with that Easter bunny.

Sydnee: I think if, as a child—if, uh, every year there was a ceremony during which I had to go sit on Bugs Bunny's lap—

Taylor: Well.

Sydnee: —at the mall, I think I would be terrified of Bugs Bunny.

Rileigh: Yeah, that's fair.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Um, so *The Nightmare Before Christmas*—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] This is why we—[laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Enough about large rabbits. [pause] For now.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: Right. Um... what did everyone think of the music? Because personally for me, this is one of my favorite musical movies, because I find the music, one, good on its own, but two, all of it goes together very well and paints a picture of the—of the... story. You know what I mean? It could be a musical, is what I'm saying. Why is it not a musical?

Taylor: Ahh.

Sydnee: Ohh, I see where this is going.

Rileigh: Right?

Sydnee: This is Rileigh's pitch for "Please make this a musical that I can star in."

Rileigh: I don't even—I don't even need to be in it.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I'd be fine with, like, being the Easter bunny that just, like, Jack accidentally opens the Easter door and is like, "Oh, sorry."

The Easter bunny's just like, "It's—it's cool."

Um, I just think it'd be a great musical.

Sydnee: I think it would be a great musical.

Taylor: I agree.

Raleigh: Um, did Charlie—did she get into the... [crosstalk]

Sydnee: She did. I mean, she liked to music, it just... everything got ruined by how scared she got.

Raleigh: Sure.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: "This is Halloween" is just a classic, though. 'Cause the whole month of October you can just "This is Halloween."

Sydnee: You can just sing it whenever you want.

Taylor: Then for November you could—" [whiny voice] Making Christmas, making Christmas—"

Raleigh: [through laughter] Yeah.

Sydnee: You know what, uh, she did get into? And this is funny, 'cause I remember this from back when the movie came out, is Sally became a very popular Halloween costume. Being the one that I think is easier to pull off than Jack Skellington, 'cause then you have to look like a skeleton. Um, but, uh, I remember that, like, back—Taylor, I don't know if you would agree with this. I feel like there was this point where when we were younger, if you were cool and not really into Halloween, but also you did definitely wanna wear a costume—you know that age where, like, it's not—all of a sudden it's like, "Oh, wearing a costume?" Until you come back around and realize wearing costumes is great. We should always wear costumes. Where Sally was, like, just the perfect costume.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: 'Cause it was, like, cool and sort of goth.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, you know, you got the... I mean... the Blink 182 song, "We can be like Jack and Sally?"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: Uh, yeah, yeah. It was definitely, like, a cool, kind of emo costume to wear.

Sydnee: Yes. And, uh, Charlie definitely got into that, because she has a Sally costume.

Taylor: I was gonna say, I thought I'd seen her in a Sally costume, so I was surprised to hear that she was so scared of the movie. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: No, she is—I think that—I remember a lot of people who maybe even weren't huge fans of the movie who, like, latched onto, like, "This looks cool. I might—"

Raleigh: The aesthetic.

Sydnee: Yeah, the aesthetic of, like, a patchwork person who's, like, sewed together and may fall apart at any time.

Raleigh: Um, I hadn't realized how long ago this movie had come out. It came out in 1993.

Taylor: Oh wow.

Raleigh: I thought it was, like, a—like, a mid, early-2000's movie. Um... but apparently it originated as a poem that Tim Burton wrote in 1982 while he was an animator with Disney, and then it took them that long to, um, make a deal about what it would be, 'cause he didn't wanna make it into a movie at first. But then he did. Um, and they released it through a different production company, because they thought it'd be too scary for kids.

Taylor: I think it's cool that Tim Burton managed to get so much of his, like, teenage and, like, young—like, properties he made or kind of came up with at a young age, like, seen on the big screen. 'Cause Edward Scissorhands was a

drawing that he did, we talked about that, when he was young, when he was a teenager. So, I like the idea that he just had those ideas, and kept holding on to them until he found the right venue for them.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Um, you know who I find even more terrifying than Oogie Boogie is the mayor of Halloweentown that has two faces.

Sydnee: The spinning head—yeah.

Rileigh: I hate that. I'm just—I'm just putting that out there.

Sydnee: You're just saying you hate it. You just mean that to be there—

Rileigh: I'm just putting it out there. I mean, I think it's a really cool character design that, like, he has a spinning head with his two moods, because I—I would also like that, if I could just, like, spin between my two moods and make it very obvious to everyone if I'm in a good mood or a bad mood. But it was very scary.

Sydnee: Right.

Rileigh: Yes.

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: Yes. I—I... I found many—I found many of the characters quite scary. I think Lock, Stock, and Barrel are kinda scary.

Taylor: Pretty scary.

Rileigh: Yeah. Scarier to think about that they are kids, right?

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: Like, they're children.

Taylor: They're the best trick or treaters, yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, eternal—eternal trick or treaters. That's—that's a—that's a creepy idea. It's very creepy.

Rileigh: That's a pretty good gig, though.

Taylor: Yeah, that's true.

Rileigh: Eternal trick or treaters? You just get candy for always.

Sydnee: But also, don't think too hard about—

Rileigh: About why they're there, mm-hmm. Don't think about it too much.

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: That is a tricky part about the whole thing. Like, and that's why I found—I found that person's blog about, like, "Here are my theories as to how everybody died." And I'm like, "Oh no... aww... I don't wanna... aww... "

Taylor: But then they—they—but then when Jack—uh, Jack takes over Sandy Claus's role and gets shot out of the sky by the... cops? Uh—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [bursts into laughter] I forgot about that!

Taylor: Wait, [through laughter] that's right?

Rileigh: Yeah?

Taylor: That's what happens? Uh, but then they're mourning him because they're like, "Oh no, Jack's dead!" Uh, he survives. But Jack has the ability to be mourned as dead in the movie, then he can't already be dead. But yeah, I guess—I guess a bit of a moment there. Yeah, Jack gets shot out of the sky by the cops.

Sydnee: Yeah, he does.

Taylor: So that's—that's what happens in the movie.

Raleigh: Wow.

Sydnee: This is all very intense.

Raleigh: It is very intense.

Sydnee: Our ideas of children's movies in 1993 were very different, I think.

Taylor: Fast and loose, oh yeah.

Sydnee: Than our ideas of children's—I mean, still, still a step ahead of where our children's movies were in the 80's. Which, like, occasionally I'll stumble on one of those gems to show Charlie and Cooper, and then I'm, like, five minutes in like, "Nope. Nope. Mm-mm. There's—that was racist. That was sexist. That's a gun! You're smoking. No. Okay."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] Like, I'm done with this now!

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, I guess in the sense that it's scary it's not a good kid's movie. But it's—I mean, it has a good—good message. It's not, like, telling kids, go be a—a pumpkin king that takes Santa's job, and don't try to kidnap Santa?

Sydnee: I think that it's, um... it is great for kids of the right age. I think it's like anything. You know? You've gotta aim it at the right age of kids, and my kids—I have—we have—we have established this on the show. I have a habit of introducing my children to things before they are ready, based on their ages. [laughs quietly] We know this.

Taylor: But, I mean, I think that the way that—you know, if you can get past the spooky visuals, I think the way it portrays the spooky characters is actually—they're not scary in the way that they behave, other than Oogie Boogie. Oogie Boogie's scary. But, like, all the other people in Halloweentown—they support each other, they, you know, come together and work together really well. They—

you know, Jack's vision, nobody really fully understands it, but they still help him see it to fruition. It's—it's a very good community, Halloweentown. I think—I mean, between that and being in Christmastown, where there's just, like, this one big old guy and a bunch of children—

Raleigh: [through laughter] That's true!

Taylor: —I think I'd rather live in Halloweentown! [laughs]

Raleigh: That's true. And I have always appreciated their countdown to Halloween. That's one of my favorite scenes when they're like, "Now it's only 364 to Halloween! Woo hoo!" The countdown begins the day after Halloween. I get that.

Taylor: Well, yeah, that's what I do every year, yeah. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. I also do that.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: So maybe it is about appreciating who you are and what you are, and not necessarily wanting to be somebody different, because it looks—'cause it looks better from the outside to you.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah! Well, that's—you know, I think that scene in the graveyard [through laughter] after he gets shot out of the sky—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Taylor: —uh, when he rips off the Santa Claus suit and is like, "I am the pumpkin king!" I think it's, you know—sometimes you gotta—you gotta lose yourself to find yourself. I don't know.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Sure.

Rileigh: Um, although—

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: —I was—I was rewatching this and realized the very, very beginning, when Jack Skellington first rides in, he has a pumpkin head, and a different body. And then he gets set on fire, and then jumps in a fountain, and then is Jack Skellington. Is this their ritual every year? Does he, like, have to ride on a horse wearing a pumpkin on his head and then... catch himself on fire, and then he gets to be himself? Like, his...

[pause]

Taylor: Maybe that was, like, his Halloween costume was a scarecrow. 'Cause he was dressed as a scarecrow with a pumpkin head.

Rileigh: Okay.

Sydnee: I assumed that that was his—sort of like Santa Claus wears the iconic red suit.

Rileigh: Okay. That's, like, his Halloween—"I am Halloween."

Sydnee: Yes. This is—this is what he wears as the iconic figure of Halloween, just like Santa wears the red suit.

Rileigh: Well, it makes more sense he's the pumpkin king if he actually had a pumpkin head.

Sydnee: And the Easter bunny—

Rileigh: For—so that makes sense.

Sydnee: —is naked, but for a vest, or perhaps a bow tie. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Does that mean he's just... naked every other day of the year?

Sydnee: I mean, he's a bunny.

Taylor: The far less exciting experience of shedding his—his costume. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: He takes off his bow tie, in his hip little loft full of eggs. Puts it away for the year. Goes back to painting eggs.

Raleigh: Puts it in his singular drawer.

Sydnee: He tosses the vest into the void, and goes back to staring—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —dead-eyed at the door to the tree. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I don't—I don't like where you've put the Easter bunny. [crosstalk]

Raleigh: I don't like that you put him in a void.

Taylor: No, I... I'm puttin' him in a nice loft. He's got a nice, you know, rent-controlled, like, 100 square foot—or 1000 square foot situation. 100 would be small.

Sydnee: I'm gonna have to go figure out what my issues with the Easter bunny are. I have some deep seated problems.

Raleigh: There's some stuff going on there.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, yeah.

Raleigh: Um, well, thank you all for watching *Nightmare Before Christmas* with me. It had been a while since I had gotten to watch it, but it got me in the spooky spirit for sure.

Sydnee: Well, it was good. And my, uh—my children enjoyed most of it.

Raleigh: One day they will enjoy all of it.

Sydnee: I believe so.

Rileigh: Someday.

Taylor: I feel like you—well, I don't know. I was gonna say you might have better luck with *The Corpse Bride*, but that, I think... it's just as scary on the visuals once they're down in the afterworld. That's... there's also—there's death in that you gotta get around. [laughs]

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. And then *Coraline*. Like, it's about a younger girl, which could be better for Charlie, but then whole Other Mother thing, it's like, no, we can't have her thinking that you're, like, secretly a spider monster.

Sydnee: We tried *Coraline*, and it was similar. About halfway through she was like, "I am kind of upset by all of this."

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. I'd say *Coraline* is the scariest of the three that we're discussing.

Rileigh: That's probably true.

Taylor: I will say. *Coraline* disturbs me as an adult. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, I agree. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Um, Sydnee, in case we didn't say this at the beginning of the episode, we're gonna do spooky stuff for this month of October.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: So, Sydnee, what is next on our spooky agenda?

Sydnee: Uh, next, I wanna talk about the movie *Practical Magic*.

Taylor: Aww.

Rileigh: Alright!

Sydnee: I'm so excited for this.

Rileigh: Um, I don't—

Sydnee: This is—this is one of those movies that mom introduced us to that I actually went, "Alright, mom. Alright. This is great."

Rileigh: Yeah, that's what I was gonna say. I think—I don't—I don't think I've seen it since mom introduced me to it, when I was in, like, 8 or 9th grade, I think. 8th or 9th grade. So it's been a long time since I have seen this movie.

Sydnee: I, uh—it was always my go to for when, like, Justin was out of town without us and I was here alone, and I'd get the kids to sleep, and then I would sit on the couch and, like, have a beer and watch *Practical Magic*. [laughs] So—

Rileigh: Aww, Syd. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, I know. It's fine. It's mock-worthy. It's fair. [laughs]

Taylor: Ah, it's a good movie. Great soundtrack.

Sydnee: Yes!

Rileigh: I am excited to get to watch it again.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, we will talk about that next week. In the meantime, thank you both. Uh, thank you listeners, for joining us. I hope you're enjoying this spooky season that has started as much as you can right now. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: You can still be spooky indoors.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: Wear your costumes and take pictures and eat some candy.

Sydnee: Yeah. Don't be frustrated. Halloween isn't canceled. We just can't have... parties, or trick or treat. But Halloween...

Rileigh: Halloween is not an event. It's a state of mind.

Sydnee: Well, I see people saying Halloween. is canceled. I'm saying it's not canceled!

Rileigh: I know. I'm just saying, it's a state of—[quietly] it's a state of mind.

Sydnee: We're just gonna dress up every day.

Rileigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Here in our home.

Rileigh: We're all wearing costumes right now.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: This is a—if anything, this is the scariest Halloween we've had in a while. Ooooh!

Sydnee: An excellent point.

Taylor: National unrest and a plague! Ooooh!

Rileigh: [weakly] Ooooh. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: On many levels, we can be disturbed. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: But also, wear costumes.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, yeah.

Sydnee: And... perhaps eat some candy.

Rileigh: Sure.

Sydnee: Lots of candy.

Raleigh: Watch scary movies that might now be less scary than what's going on in the real world.

Taylor: I don't know. Every movie where I see people interacting and, like, touching each other scares me now, so that doesn't...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Oh, same. Hard same.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, thank you all. [laughs quietly] Thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to Maximumfun.org. That's the network that our show is on, and there are lots of great shows there, and you would love 'em, so go check those out. And... 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.

Raleigh: I'm still buffering...

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

[theme music plays in the background]

Raleigh: Do you think we're a good Halloween. podcast, even though we're a bad fish, bug, and cereal podcast?

Sydnee: [quietly] I guess.

Raleigh: Are we, like, an okay Halloween. podcast?

Sydnee: We're an okay, yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: We are an okay Halloween podcast.

Raleigh: Put that on the iTunes.

Sydnee: Let's make a t-shirt out of it.

Raleigh: [laughs]

[spooky music plays in the background]

April: Hello there ghouls and gals, it is I, April Wolfe. I'm here to take you through the twisty, scary, heart-pounding world of genre cinema on the exhilarating program known as *Switchblade Sisters*. The concept is simple. I invite a female filmmaker on each week and we discuss their favorite genre film. Listen in closely to hear past guests like The Babadook director, Jennifer Kent, Winter's Bone director, Debra Granik, and so many others, every Thursday on Maximumfun.org. Tune in, if you dare! Mwa ha ha ha—

[music cuts out suddenly]

It's actually a very thought provoking show that deeply explores the craft and philosophy behind the filmmaking process, while also examining film through the lens of the female gaze. So, like, you should listen.

Switchblade Sisters.

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