

Still Buffering 233: "Twilight" (2008)

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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: Hey, do you all like Scooby Doo?

[pause]

Rileigh: [snorts quietly] What?

Taylor: Uhh... yeah? There—

Rileigh: I suppose.

Taylor: —there are many forms of Scooby Doo. I don't really... that's...

Sydnee: There's a great new Scooby Doo movie out.

Rileigh: *Scoob*?

Sydnee: Well, *Scoob* is great, but that's not the one I'm talking about.

Rileigh: Which one are you talking about?

Sydnee: *Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo!* I would high recommend [laughs quietly] it.

Rileigh: Alright?

Taylor: Is—okay. Is it animated? Is it live action?

Sydnee: It's animated. It looks more like the old style animation.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: Uh, it has special guest star Elvira.

Taylor: Oh ho!

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Feels like a real throwback Scooby Doo where they would have, like, random special guests, you know?

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: On the show. Uh, Elvira's on there. And also featuring, uh, the Scarecrow from Batman.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: Like, the bad guy, the Scarecrow?

Raleigh: [snorts quietly] Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah, no, I... like, wait. Like, just the character? Or, like, Cillian Murphy?

Sydnee: Cillian Murphy.

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: As the Scarecrow.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: From *Batman*. As the Scarecrow. Like, apparently Scooby Doo and Batman exist in the same universe?

Raleigh: That's a—that's a crossover I don't...

Sydnee: In this movie—

Raleigh: ... need.

Sydnee: —the Scarecrow has escaped from Arkham, and is there.

Taylor: Huh.

Sydnee: This happens.

Taylor: I'm trying to process this... this same world—I've never considered those worlds existing in one—wait, but that means... but if Scooby Doo can talk, can all dogs in the Batman universe... communicate?

[pause]

Sydnee and Raleigh: Uhhh...

Sydnee: I don't think all dogs in the Scooby Doo universe can communicate.

Taylor: Well, but then again, because there are so many, um, like—

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: —characters in the Batman universe that are mutated by some sort of horrible, like, industrial accident, is Scooby Doo in fact a superpowered dog?

[pause]

Sydnee: Well, Scoob would make you think that.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: If you've seen Scoob, if we consider this all canon—

Taylor: It's all canon. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: —Scooby Doo—

Rileigh: Wait, I don't—I—there are—there are not two Scooby Doo storylines.
[laughs]

Sydnee: —is descended from... I don't remember. A famous dog. [laughs] With powers.

Rileigh: What famous dog with powers, Sydnee?!

Sydnee: I don't know. It's somebody who can open the gate to the underworld, and there's gold there.

Rileigh: So, Scooby Doo's a demon?!

Sydnee: It's—no, no!

Taylor: Wait, wait, like—like [stammering] like the—like, s—s—what is it—Cerebus, the three-headed—

Rileigh: Maybe?

Sydnee: I—no, there was a—[laughs]

Taylor: Is he one of the heads of the three-headed dog that just, like, is having a wacky adventure, like, Earth-side, and then he's gonna go back... to... heck. What—what are—

Sydnee: It's Scooby Doo, Astro—

Taylor: What is [crosstalk]

Sydnee: —and Pluto. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: No, no, no, no, no.

Rileigh: No, and Air Bud's in there, too.

Sydnee: Marmaduke's gotta be in there, too! Marmaduke... is a dog... but he acts like a person. [laughs]

Taylor: So, wait. We've got Scooby Doo, Marmaduke—wait, Air Bud?

Raleigh: Air Bud's gotta be in there. Are you telling me that Air Bud's not important? [laughs]

Taylor: These are the three heads of the dog that guard the gates to heck.

Raleigh: Oh wait! What about Balto?

Sydnee and Taylor: Awww...

Sydnee: But he's such a nice dog.

Taylor: He's—he's part wolf, though. I don't know.

[pause]

Sydnee: What are some more famous dogs—

Taylor: [laughs loudly]

Sydnee: —[through laughter] you'd like to talk about?

Taylor: Uh...

Raleigh: What about Brian from *Family Guy*? [laughs]

Sydnee: This is a very bad famous dog podcast.

Taylor: I don't know!

Sydnee: That we've made.

Taylor: I think we just started a—this is a great beginning to a fanfic where you're at the gates of heck, and there greeting you is Air Bud, Marmaduke, [through laughter] and Scooby Doo as a three-headed dog beast!

Sydnee: This is obviously impossible, as all dogs go to heaven. We know this!

Taylor: But then why is there a three-headed dog in heck?! [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [sighs] I have no answers for this.

Rileigh: It's a choose-your-own-adventure where you pick the three dogs, and then the story just takes you wherever those dogs [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: Listen. Here is my thing. I'm just saying that at one point, Fred talks about how good he is at traps. And, like, takes his shirt off and starts building... rudimentary traps for ghosts.

Rileigh: This seems on-brand for Fred.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And he stills wears his ascot, of course.

Rileigh: [spluttering laughter]

Sydnee: And—

Rileigh: Of course.

Sydnee: —uh, Velma trips on Scooby snacks with Shaggy and Scooby in order to enter her mind palace. It's also, like, very pro-science.

Taylor: Well... [pause] okay.

Sydnee: I just—I think everyone should watch this movie.

Taylor: Okay. Is that what... [pause]

Sydnee: No, it's not what we're talking about. I just wanted to tell everybody that—listen. When you have kids, and it's Halloween time, the kind of movies that you get to watch on a regular basis are a little different.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And any kind of new kids Halloween movie that comes out that you haven't already seen a thousand times, like *Spookley the Square Pumpkin*, is greatly appreciated. And I am just saying, *Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo!* is a fine film.

Taylor: I'll—I'll watch that. That sounds—sounds good.

Sydnee: I have—I have made my persuasive argument.

Taylor: Is this—is—is this a—is this a paid sponsorship that we should be aware of?

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] No. No, but if Scooby Doo wants to pay me...

[pause]

Raleigh: Will you sponsor—they will sponsor you? You will advertise for this film?

Sydnee: Hi, I'm—Hi, I'm Dr. McElroy, brought to you by Scooby Doo. I'll be your doctor today. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] I don't know, Syd, if the deep lore that you've just invented is true. I do not wish to mess with this undying heck god, Scooby Doo.

Raleigh: Yeah, there's a lot goin' on there with Scooby Doo if all this is true.

Sydnee: There's—listen. There's a lot going on with Scooby Doo generally. [pause] My kids are into Scooby Doo right now. I've watched a lot of iterations of Scooby Doo in various—

Raleigh: That's interesting for two kids who don't like real dogs. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: They love Scooby Doo!

Sydnee: They love Scooby Dooby Doo!

Raleigh: I shouldn't say they don't like them. They are very scared of them.

Sydnee: That's true, yes. [pause] Uh...

Rileigh: Well, there is a big dog in, um, another movie.

Taylor: There you go.

Rileigh: And it's also part... human, like the dark lord Scooby Doo, and that's *Twilight*. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Now... what I need you to do is see Scooby Doo, *Happy Halloween, Scooby Doo!*, and then compare it to *Twilight*, um, in a series of essays, please.

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] I will write an essay.

Sydnee: Thank you.

Taylor: I—it's gotta be bet—it's gotta better.

Sydnee: So, what did you—Taylor, I am so excited to hear—

Taylor: [groans]

Rileigh: I know.

Sydnee: —your first viewing ever of *Twilight*. What did you think?

Taylor: Okay. I'm gonna—I'm gonna preface my opinion with saying this. Uh, I... if it brings you joy, if you like it, that is good. Anything that you enjoy and makes you happy and it's your fandom... my opinions don't matter. I have my own fandoms. That's fine.

Uh, for me personally... I... I have... I can't—I can't—I—I've been trying to figure out why I... did not like these movies [through laughter] so much!

Uh, and I think I can kind of, uh, crystallize what it is personally for me that I find so offensive about the *Twilight* franchise.

[pause]

Sydnee: Okay?

Taylor: These are the most aggressively heterosexual vampires I have ever seen brought to film! They are—

Rileigh: That's fair.

Taylor: —they are wearing goth athleisure! I cannot! And these are beautiful actors. Like, these are attractive people. But the—the haircuts, and the—the—I don't—just—the costuming, I have never just—like, I kept looking for a character. And—and okay, there's, like, uh—what, uh—Aziraphale, uh, the—uh, Michael—what's his name? The—the head vampire from Italy, the main guy.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Okay. I—I—

Sydnee: Of the Volturi.

Taylor: I could jive with him. That was cool. Every moment he was onscreen I was like, "Yes. Whatever you're doing, I'm—I'm happy." But—

Sydnee: [laughs] Whatever this is. [laughs]

Rileigh: I'm into.

Taylor: [laughs] Yeah, like, just your—you're, like, a creepy child, but you're also... murderous. I like it all. This is what I want from my vampires. Please give me more. Can he come back? I will watch a whole show just about him. Uh, but everything else I just, like—it was like—ugh, everything about vampires where it's just, like, it's—it's kinda gay, and it's sexy, and it's dangerous, and these are just like, "[deep voice] Let's... play baseball."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: "Oooh!" [laughs]

Sydnee: This is—that is very true. That it is a way of saying, like—you know, the thing about vampires... that I find [laughs] makes them inappropriate for young people isn't the, um, surviving on the blood of humans thing. It's how sexy they are.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: What could we do to make them a little less sexy, and a little more...

[extended pause]

LL Bean. [laughs]

Raleigh: But do—I mean... why baseball, then? Is there a sexier sport that they could've played?

Sydnee: [incredulously] Is there a sexier sport than baseball? You just asked that—

Raleigh: That's what I'm saying!

Sydnee: —that question.

Raleigh: Well, that means—that insinuates that you think baseball is, like—it's not a not sexy sport, but it's not the sexiest sport.

Taylor: It... [stammers] I think that... I think that in my vampire fantasies—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] If it lowers their sexiness.

Taylor: —there was very little sporting going on, I think. I guess.

Sydnee: Yeah, I don't know—I don't know that I've ever—

Taylor: Maybe fencing? Fencing!

Sydnee: Yeah, fencing?

Taylor: Fencing could be what my vampires could do!

Rileigh: [snorts quietly] What do vamp—

Taylor: I can't think of any other sport!

Sydnee: Curling?

Taylor: That I want to see my vampires do. [laughs]

Sydnee: Curling?

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] You think curling is sexier than baseball, objectively?!

[pause]

Sydnee: There is, like, the crouching. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] There is nothing sexier than a good vampiric crouch.

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] And, like, the aggressive sweeping that they do? I don't know how curling works, exactly.

Sydnee: It is quite vigorous. [laughs]

Rileigh: [snorts]

Taylor: I can't—I—[sighs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I—I don't know. I'm sure—there's gotta be a sexy sport out there.

Taylor: It just seemed like these stories were written by somebody that... didn't allow themselves to, like—like, there was... no understanding of what... it's deeply repressed what sexy might be in this story. It's just—I don't know. I don't know. The whole thing. It just felt like a weird self-insertion fanfic that somehow got made into giant blockbuster films. And—yeah.

Sydnee: You know, okay. Here's—I will say this. My recollection—and it's been a while since I've read the books—but I feel like the books get sexier. Is that right?

Rileigh: The books do get sexier. Because there was a time where I tried to start reading the books when you were also reading the books, and I forgot that, like, you were a whole adult while I was still a child, and I had to stop reading the books and pick them up again when I was in high school.

Sydnee: [through laughter] 'Cause they were too sexy! [laughs]

Rileigh: They were too sexy for me! I was, like, 12, and I was like, "I don't enjoy reading this. I would like to not read this."

It's not, like, inappropriate, it's just... you know.

Sydnee: No. I mean, there's a—so, in the books, like, they're very descriptive. How many of the movies did you watch?

Taylor: Oh, I watch—

Sydnee: 'Cause we're gonna focus on the first, but what do you—

Taylor: I watched 'em all.

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] Oh, gosh.

Sydnee: Oh no!

Rileigh: You didn't have to do this to yourself.

Taylor: No, I watched them all. I had to know! And it—I had to know. I don't know what I had to know. Uh, but it just—

Sydnee: Well, you know it now!

Taylor: I know it! I know it now. I mean, but that's the thing. There are—there are sex scenes in the movie! And, okay, I should say that my problem with the movie is not that it's not sexy in the right ways for me.

Rileigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: That's not fair to say.

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: Uh, but I will say, I'm not uncomfortable with sex scenes, and I was deeply uncomfortable in everything pertaining to actual sex in these movies.

Raleigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: Well, they—I mean... [sighs] it's—it is. So, this jumps way ahead in the story, and we'll try to focus mainly on the first movie, but—

Taylor: Sorry, yes. We don't have [through laughter] to keep talking about the sexiness of these movies!

Sydnee: No, but like—

Raleigh: It's very important, Taylor. These movies are about vampires. That's, like, an integral part of their whole being.

Sydnee: I think what you're getting at, though—

Taylor: [simultaneously] Vampires get to be hot!

Sydnee: —I think what you're getting at, though, is what makes it—uh, what made it probably hard for some people is—and this is carried through from the beginning.

So, in the very first film—or the book, whatever—we understand this relationship between Bella, our main character, who's supposed to be, like—I realized this upon rewatch. She trips a few times in the movie, which is your sign that she's just so clumsy. Um—[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: So clumsy.

Sydnee: She's so clumsy. It's adorable. Um, she's clumsy and frail. She's just a human. I mean, like, that's the whole thing. She's human. But, uh, Edward is a vampire, so he's, like, super fast and super strong and super hot, and, um—not really technically hot. He's actually really cold.

Raleigh: 'Cause he's dead.

Sydnee: 'Cause he's dead. He sparkles in the sunlight. Um—

Taylor: How do you—how was that not gay! But they made straight glitter! I'm a—okay, go ahead.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Sydnee: It is—it is a very—it is a weird—it is, I will say, now that you say that, like, that scene, as I was watching it I was like, "Man, it's a weird scene. Man, it plays so weird."

Like, and I was into these books, but this still plays weird to me. Why—and it's because it's a very straight glitter scene, and you don't see those a lot! [laughs]

Taylor: [stammers] I'm not saying that straight people can't glitter. It just felt like there was a big sign that's like, "This is not for you to like. Not-straight person." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: "This is purely heterosexual glitter!"

Taylor: "Let's have Jacob tear his shirt off one more time and talk about girls!"

Sydnee: [laughs] But they—but th—[laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: But they, like... so, they set up this relationship between the two of them, 'cause that's the whole—in case you haven't seen *Twilight*, or aren't aware, somehow—

Taylor: [through laughter] Please give us the premise!

Raleigh: Yes. [laughs]

Sydnee: Bella is a teenage girl... who moves to the cloudiest place in the country. [laughs] Forks.

Raleigh: Forks.

Taylor: Forks! [laughs]

Sydnee: And is—and falls in love with a young vampire, except he's not young, 'cause he's a vampire, but he looks young 'cause he's eternally 17.

Raleigh: He's 17 again.

Sydnee: Yes, forever. Edward. And, um, the relationship almost cannot be, because he is... he's a demon, is what he says. This is—and so he can't. But then he can't help himself, he falls for her, and they fall in love. And then she almost gets eaten by this other vampire, who loves to hunt—you know, some people just love to hunt!

Raleigh: But not... those—not these good vampires.

Sydnee: No. These good vampires are vegetarians, [holding back laughter] in that they eat animals.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, I was gona say no, they're just—they're just yuppies with hunting licenses! Okay!

Sydnee: [laughs] They say—I love that they say "We're vegetarians, we only eat animals." It's like, "Well... "

Raleigh: You mean you don't eat humans, is the thing. That's not—doesn't mean you're vegetarian. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: And, uh—and then at the very end of the film, of course, Bella is not... killed by the bad vampire. The bad vampire is killed by Edward and the other good vampires. And they love each other.

Raleigh: But then there are more films.

Sydnee: There are more films. Werewolves are part of it. [laughs] The werewolves are part of it.

Raleigh: [through laughter] Part of it. Um, and the werewolves—

Sydnee: They show up later.

Rileigh: —don't like the vampires.

Taylor: No, the—

Rileigh: They're, like...

Taylor: —they're natural enemies, apparently.

Sydnee: Of the cold ones.

Rileigh: Like the Sharks and the Jets, except... werewolves and vampires.

Sydnee: Uh—

Rileigh: They do dance against each other. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: And... [laughs] and part of the—

Rileigh: They don't. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: —and part of the problem with this relationship is that because Edward is, like, super—he has superpowers, um, basically, like, he might accidentally hurt Bella. Because, well, at first he wants to drink her blood very badly. But he doesn't. But he does. But he doesn't.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: Um, but also he might just, like, hold her hand too tightly.

Rileigh: [snorts]

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] And smash it.

Rileigh: Oops!

Sydnee: You know? 'Cause he doesn't—he can't control his mighty vampire strength.

Rileigh: You'd think after all these years he'd have gotten some tips and tricks and figured out how to control those things.

Sydnee: It's a—it's—I think that storyline seen played out on screen gets kind of rough, because, like... "I—I might hurt you, and I'm telling you how much I might hurt you," and it's a weird, like... you're teenagers in love, and this is weird to see played—you know what I mean? Like, it—it smacks of things we don't want to see.

Like, "Oh, could you please stop telling her how much you could hurt her? And also, early when she saw you totally stop that car with your arm, and she was like, 'I saw you stop that car,' and you were like, "No I didn't,' that's gaslighting, man."

Right?

Taylor: Well, yeah. And he—he stalks her. He, like, follows her around, he knows what she's doin'—

Sydnee: He watches her sleep?!

Taylor: There's a lot—like, that's why—look. Everybody's allowed their... their fantasy. That's fine. And I get—'cause the thing is—I mean, I—I don't wanna jump ahead here, but I'm aware that the *Fifty Shades of Grey* film franchise and books are based off of fanfiction that started from *Twilight*. That is true.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yes, yes.

Taylor: And I get it, 'cause it all fills the same void. It's just like, "Uh, you can read about this, but real life, this is bad." Uh, and it's that same thing. It's, like, correlating sex and violence... it's something that happens in the horror genre a lot, but specifically here where you have a young, underage, like, teenage girl, and this ancient creature that's been alive for a long time, he might look like a 17-year-old boy, but he's old, and it is implicit in the relationship that the sexiness comes from the danger of him losing control and hurting her is the opposite of hot to me.

And I think speaks to a certain amount—like, if that's your thing, that's your thing, and I will not... take issue with it. But I might worry about the fact that that's

your thing, 'cause I think it comes from a bad place, culturally, that that's anybody's thing.

Sydnee: And, I mean, I feel like they try to, uh, soften that throughout the storyline with the idea that, like, Edward is this... gentleman. [laughs quietly] Who insists upon marriage.

Raleigh: Because he is from... the early—the olden days.

Sydnee: He's from a different time.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Um... [laughs quietly] when [laughs quietly] you threatened a girl into marriage... first. [laughs] No, but, like, he—but, like, they try to soften it that way, and with the idea that, like, he truly does not want to hurt her, he truly wants to marry her and love her forever or whatever, and he doesn't even want to turn her into a vampire because... he thinks that ultimately he's doomed to go to heck, because he's a vampire, and he doesn't want—

Taylor: And meet Scooby Doo. [laughs]

Sydnee: —and meet—[laughs loudly]

Raleigh: [laughs] And Marmaduke and Air Bud.

Sydnee: And he d—he doesn't want that fate to befall—

Taylor: [through laughter] Can that be—

Sydnee: —his beloved Bella.

Taylor: —can that be a new way of, like—if you're, like, "Oh, that's a bad person. That person's destined for Scooby Doo, if you know what I mean." [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh, I love Scooby Doo!

Taylor: [through laughter] Sorry, go ahead.

Sydnee: But I—and so I think they try to, like, deal with that. And then of course by the time that Bella—spoilers—by the time she gets turned into a vampire—

Raleigh: Oh! You ruined it!

Sydnee: —like you didn't know that was gonna happen! Um, then it's like, now they're on equal footing. They're both... capable of murder. But—[laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So we're fine. Uh, but yes. I think it's hard. I think it was hard in the books, but it was harder to see played out onscreen, and I think her youth makes, like, the fact that this character is... 16, when it starts? Or 17. 16, 17? 17?

Raleigh: 17, probably.

Sydnee: 17? Underage.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think that makes it harder to watch play out. And yes, I agree with all those. And I understand that there are people who are like, "Come on. It's fantasy."

Taylor: Sure.

Sydnee: Yes, I know. And when it comes to vampire fiction, like, you're always gonna have this weird stuff when vampires and humans are making out with, like, "How old is that vampire, now?!" [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] Like... I mean, that's always gonna be part of the unfortunate conversation. But, like, it's fantasy, so I'm not gonna—I'm not gonna beat Stephanie Meyer up for that, since that is, like, the genre.

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: Uh, but yeah, I agree. I agree. I think it's tough to watch it played out onscreen, and it makes the sex stuff... a little—a little uncomfortable, for me personally.

[pause]

Taylor: Ye—yeah. I mean...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I don't... I don't know.

Sydnee: Let's talk—let's talk about other stuff in *Twilight* that isn't sex.

Taylor: That would—sure.

Raleigh: I wanna talk about the werewolves.

Taylor: Yeah, let's get into them werewolves.

Sydnee: Uh, but before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Taylor, I believe we have a Jumbotron this week.

Taylor: Yes we do! Uh, so this is—this is a really cool message. This message is for everyone, and it is from, um, Joe Whitaker. And—

Sydnee: Friend of the show.

Taylor: —friend of the show, friend of many of our shows. Hi, Joe. Uh—

Raleigh: Hi, Joe.

Sydnee: Hi, Joe!

Taylor: Uh, Joe says:

"My wife is an ER nurse, and my son is immunocompromised. I want to say thank you to all the doctors, nurses, teachers, blood plasma donors, flu vaccine recipients, and mask-wearers, for helping us keep this world semi-safe. Thank you, and happy spooky season."

Sydnee: Awww.

Taylor: That is super nice.

Sydnee: Well, that was very nice.

Raleigh: Very nice.

Sydnee: Yes. I—I concur. Thank you, everybody who's working hard to keep us safe this year.

Raleigh: That means you too, Syd.

Sydnee: Aw. Well, thank you.

Raleigh: You're a doctor.

Sydnee: I appreciate it. Thank you for donating plasma, Tey!

Taylor: Yeah!

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: I do what I can.

Raleigh: I'm just... wearing my mask.

Taylor: Thank you for wearing a mask! [laughs]

Raleigh: Not currently.

Sydnee: Thank you for not partying.

Rileigh: Yes. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: That's true. [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, we also, this week, wanna tell you about Native. You work really hard, whether you're working at home, whether you're working out of your dorm room, whether you're working at an actual place of work. Um, and you wanna reward yourself with products that mirror your lifestyle, that feel good and make you feel good, and Native has ingredients that are gonna make you feel good, like coconut oil, shea butter, tapioca starch—it's vegan, it's never tested on animals. They've got over ten scents, including seasonal scents—

Rileigh: [gasps]

Sydnee: —like pumpkin spice latte!

Rileigh: Oh my gosh.

Sydnee: Uh, everybody has—everybody will find a scent they like with Native. Their most popular classic scents are coconut and vanilla, lavender and rose, cucumber and mint, citrus and herbal—um, we've told you many times that coconut and vanilla is a fav around here. Um, it really smells so good. It's that tropical escape you need in your pits, as the weather turns cold.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: That's a good tagline.

Taylor: Sniff, sniff! Ah, summer. [laughs]

Sydnee: You can use that if you want, Native. It's risk-free to try. Every product comes with free shipping within the US, and free 30 day returns and exchanges. So, if you want to make the switch to Native today by going to nativideo.com/buffering, or use promo code "buffering" at checkout and get 20%

off your first order. That's nativideo.com/buffering, or use promo code "buffering" at checkout for 20% off your first order.

Rileigh: You know what I've discovered recently?

Sydnee: What?

Rileigh: It's that not all mattresses and pillows are created equal.

Sydnee: That's true.

Rileigh: They're all made differently. But I wanna talk about Purple... mattresses. Not the color. The company, Purple.

Sydnee: They make mattresses.

Rileigh: They make mattresses.

Sydnee: And pillows.

Rileigh: And pillows. Um, and they make their mattresses out of their Purple Grid, which sets them apart from all other mattresses. It's a patented comfort technology that adapts to your body's natural shape and sleep style. It has over 1800 open air channels designed to neutralize body heat, and it provides a great, unique cooling effect, which I love, personally.

You wake up in the middle of the night, you get all hot and sweaty, you gotta flip your pillow over the cool side. There's no cool side with Purple, 'cause it's all the cool side.

Sydnee: Hey, that's right!

Rileigh: It's just always cool. Um, 'cause of the... cooling effect I just told you about. It's all cool. [laughs quietly] Um—

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: —also, they have pillows!

Sydnee: Very eloquent.

Rileigh: And they're all engineered with the grid for total head and neck support, and absolute air flow—oh, so you're always on the cool side of the pillow. [through laughter] I didn't realize the copy already said that! I came up with it the first time. So, you know, um... I didn't steal it.

Sydnee: It's still plagiarism. [laughs]

Rileigh: I'm sorry, it was unintentional. But...

Sydnee: We're sorry, pillow—

Rileigh: Purple?

Sydnee: —we're sorry, Purple.

Taylor: Pillow?!

Sydnee: [laughs] Your pillow technology is so great, we came up with it even before you told us! Thank you, Purple.

Rileigh: [laughs] Um, we received some little squares of their Purple Grid, and it is very cool. It's very squishy, very flexible, very comfy. Um... I highly—I highly recommend. I was very impressed. I have never felt a mattress like this before.

Sydnee: So, what should our...

Rileigh: So. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: ... listeners do?

Rileigh: Listeners, uh, if you want to experience the Purple Grid, you should go to purple.com/buffering10 and use promo code "buffering10." For a limited time, you'll get 10% off any order of \$200 or more. That's purple.com/buffering10, promo code "buffering10" for 10% off any order of \$200 or more.

Sydnee: So, I think, if we're gonna talk about, like—we've kind of teased *Twilight* here for a while, and mentioned some of the things that bother us,

especially as we get older. I think that it's always easy to look back at things like this and start to take a more critical eye about how, like, things like relationships and love and sex and that kind of stuff is presented, um, among younger people, because then it will appeal to younger people, and so that's when it starts to become, like, concerning.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Uh, but when a lot of people read these books, they were younger.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I have to imagine that this idea that what captured so many people's imaginations was this idea that we've always seen vampires presented in media as, like—kind of like you were saying, Tey, like this other thing altogether. Like, not wholly human. They're, like—and they're—they're—they're a little bit dangerous, you know? Kind of, like, capable of things that are bad, and a little scary, but cool.

Whereas these vampires are like, "What if they just wanted to, like, go to high school? And, you know, play baseball? And... drive a Volvo?"

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: "Would that be so bad? Then you could just go to high school with 'em. And maybe they would fall in love with you."

Raleigh: And you wouldn't even know.

Sydnee: And I think that was, like, the thing. Like... it was appeal—it was that whole, like, "You might feel like you're just a regular girl, but... then what if a special vampire in school fell in love with you?" [laughs quietly]

[pause]

And I think teenagers love that.

Raleigh: I love that.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: I mean, to be fair, though... my thought process reading it the first time wasn't that in depth, as a young person. It was mostly just like, "[gasps] Dreamy vampire and a dreamy werewolf both love me! What will I ever do?"

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Rileigh: [laughs] That was a world where, like, that was my only problem.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Rileigh: That was—that was nice.

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: Well, and I—I mean, I think that there's—there's nothing wrong with that. Like, that's—you're right in that it does take some of the inherent danger out of both of those, you know, archetypes of horror, and makes them... s—sexy... young men. And that is the—the appeal! I don't—like, I'm not—I'm not saying these movies are terrible and bad and wrong. I just... you know. It's—it's hard as an adult. Maybe this is it. 'Cause I'm watching these as, you know, in my 30's. It makes me uncomfortable to see what is very definitely a teen fantasy played out on screen, but I'm not faulting any teen that had that fantasy.

Sydnee: Right, right. No, I agree. I agree. And, like, that is—like, to pretend like there's not something in a lot of us—not all of us, but a lot of us—that's, like, "Oh, the idea that these two... beautiful men, [holding back laughter] who are also mythical creatures... [laughs quietly] would be—would be both deeply, hopelessly in love with me at the same time."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is appealing. I mean, of course. Like, for a lot of us, there's a little part that goes, "Ehhh, okay."

Rileigh: I get it.

Sydnee: "Alright. That's kinda cool." I mean, I always liked it better as we progressed and Bella became a vampire, because then, like, she had a little more agency.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, maybe that's just the thing, is that—look. I mean, it's—it's weird for me because I think even the power dynamic play in this, you know, where he's all powerful, and it's dangerous 'cause he might—he loves her so much, but he might hurt her. Like, that—there's a roleplay aspect that is fine for consenting adults, but when there's kids involved it's just like—it's hard.

Sydnee: Yes, yes.

Taylor: But then there's the wish fulfillment of now she has—even stronger than him. There's that flipped script later in the movies where she becomes a vampire, and because young vampires are stronger than old vampires, suddenly she's stronger than him. And, like, that's a little bit... yeah. It's a little bit easier to watch. Uh, I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah, and you know, they build to that with the idea that Edward can read minds, but the only mind he can't read is Bella's.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And so she is somewhat shielded from him at all times. Um... which I guess is a power, sort of.

Rileigh: She's so mysterious.

Sydnee: [laughs] Um, but it is, like—and it is a very—kind of like you said, it is, uh, somewhat heteronormative in the sense that, like, early on the goal of both our male characters is just to protect this girl, like, at all costs. She is so weak and incapable of everything. Just protect her. [laughs quietly] And that's... you know. Not, like—

Rileigh: Not great.

Sydnee: —not great. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah. I mean, that's, like—it's totally—it is a harmless and popular fantasy, the idea of, like, "I have two hot dudes that are competing over me, and fighting over me, and they both want to save me."

I get it. Like, I'm not—that's fine. That's... that's totally fine. It's just it's not for me, but that doesn't mean it's wrong. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Sure.

Rileigh: Now, Sydnee, there is another man in this movie that you felt a personal... connection to. That you informed us you very personally related to.

Sydnee: Oh. Bella's dad.

Rileigh: Yes. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Charlie.

Rileigh: I think is one of the better characters in the films. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I would agree.

Sydnee: I—

Rileigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: —Charlie is always drinking giant cans of beer. Um, that's the number one thing you know about Charlie. Number two:

Rileigh: And he has a good mustache.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: He has a good—okay. Number two: good mustache. Number three:

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Always kinda angry. Not sure why. Just seems kinda angry, constantly. I feel—I felt a kinship with Charlie. I was like, "That's kinda me." [laughs]
Generally angry. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know?

Raleigh: With a big beer.

Sydnee: With a big beer. With a big R beer, I believe.

Taylor: R beer—okay, yeah. I felt—

Sydnee: He says at one point, like, "I've got a six pack of R's." [laughs quietly] "Vitamin R," that's what he says! Vitamin R.

Taylor: Ooh.

Raleigh: Oh.

Taylor: I felt really bad for—'cause I agree, I like Charlie as a character. I liked—actually, a lot of the human characters I thought were—well, they were more likable than the people that I think were supposed to be sexy and mysterious.

Sydnee: [sharp laugh]

Taylor: Like, I liked Charlie, I liked, uh—oh, gosh. What's the, uh...

Sydnee: Anna Kendrick?

Taylor: Anna Kendrick's character. Like, the friends?

Sydnee: Yeah, the friend.

Raleigh: Is her name Stacey?

Sydnee: N—I don't remember.

Taylor: Probably not, but definitely a Stacey. [laughs]

Raleigh: I don't remember, but I also liked that character.

Sydnee: She didn't remember being in the film, so I don't feel bad about not remembering her character's name. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. I thought, like—that was... those were all nice characters. And specifically, like, Charlie, I felt so bad for him where—'cause, like, Bella's choosing between—you know, when she chooses to become a vampire and she's gonna become a vampire, that comes the caveat "And then you're gonna tell—we're gonna tell your dad that you died, and that's just gonna be it."

Like, not like, "You're gonna be able to live your human life until it becomes apparent you're not aging, and then maybe you need to tell him, "Yo, dad, I'm a vampire."

No, no. We're gonna traumatize your father.

And she's just like, "Well, I'm in love, so okay!"

Like...

Sydney: Yeah. There is—[laughs quietly]

Taylor: [loudly] No!

Sydney: I mean, and I think it feels really obvious to me in the first movie how when she towards the end is like, "Just, like, bite me, and let's... "

Not, like, "Bite me," like—

Taylor: [laughs loudly]

Sydney: —literally, like, "Please bite me, and make me a vampire, and then we'll be together forever."

And it's like, that's... [sighs] you're just—I don't know that you know—when he says, like, the—like the patronizing, like, "You don't know what you're asking," I'm at home, like, as a mom, like, [laughs] drinking a beer goin', "You don't know what you're asking." [laughs] "Listen, honey. Edward's right." [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydney: "Maybe slow it down."

Taylor: Well, I think that's—and maybe that's just the difference, is that these movies are made to appeal to—when you're a teenager, those feelings feel so real that you could have your—you could think that's the right choice, you know? You feel so much that you're like, "It's a hard sacrifice, but of course I'm going to throw away all of my, like, humanly connections and be with this person that I love." And there's not a second, like, kind of, you know, angle to the movie that is aware of the fact that when you're young, things feel more intense.

So that's why—you know, that's why I can't—I can say my opinions, but I understand it's not made for me. It's made for younger people, and that's okay, 'cause that is how you feel. That is what you do, and the movie is just a fantasy fulfillment in that direction.

Sydney: Yeah. And I don't think there's anything wrong with, like, making, um... big budget things with great actors and, you know, beautiful scenery and all this, putting time and effort into something that's aimed at teenagers. And especially, like, a lot of teenage girls. Like...

Riley: Mm-hmm.

Sydney: You know, that's fine. I have no problem with that. I don't think it's wor—like we've talked about a lot on this show, it's not worthy of ridicule simply because it's aimed at a demo that isn't you.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, and—

Riley: Um—

Taylor: —go—no, please, Riley.

Riley: [holding back laughter] Oh, no.

Taylor: This is your topic and I feel like—please tell us what you love about this. [laughs quietly]

Riley: I mean, I think part of the reason I loved it—and this is not be being, like... cheesy, this is true—is because it was one of the first things that I had also read at the same time as Sydney.

Sydney: Aww!

Rileigh: And I remember we went to at least, like, one or two of the midnight premiers of the movies together. Um, so it was one of the first times I felt like a big kid, 'cause I was like, "Oh, I'm reading a big kid book. I'm not reading a kid book, I'm reading a big kid book."

Um, but also I just, like—it was—I've reread it multiple times since then, just because for me it is one of those things that is kind of... dumb, and it doesn't totally make sense at all times, and it's not, like, the most compelling, gripping, like, life changing story you're ever going to read.

Like, it's not going to be, like, a classic piece of literature you have to read to understand, like... English as a language or whatever. But it's just one of things you can read that's, like, a nice place to be for a little bit. It's like—

Sydnee: In Forks.

Rileigh: —I know—I know how this is gonna go. I know how this is gonna turn out. There's nothing unexpected or scary here. Like, yeah, there are vampires and werewolves, but they're not that bad. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It's—it's why that part in the—in the movie, in the last movie when they have the fake out battle where they pretend—

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: —yeah, in the—in the movie.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Did you—

Taylor: Frankly, that scene was so cool!

Sydnee: —did you fall for that?

Taylor: I—I—I thought that's what was ha—yes. I was like, "Oh, wow. The stakes just got intense!"

Rileigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: And honestly, like, that plot device, that it was just all in, uh—oh, Alice?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I liked Alice. Alice was [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: I like Alice.

Taylor: Yeah. But that was a super well done scene, and a really cool plot device.

Sydnee: Yeah, I thought that was a really—I remember watching that in the theater and being just totally aghast. Like, "[gasps loudly] How could you deviate—no, you can't!"

Raleigh: "What is going on?"

Sydnee: "What are you do—?!" I mean just, like, so upset, until I realized it was a fake out, and I was like, "Oh, alright. You got me. That was good. That was good. You got me."

I mean, it was well done. It was well done. Um, and it's—I will say, to, like, they're beautiful movies. Everyone in them is beautiful, and the setting is beautiful. Like, you just wanna go and live in Forks. I mean, it is awfully cloudy. I would miss the sun, but still, like—

Raleigh: No, I like that. Forks has, like, my ideal weather all the time, year round.

Sydnee: The forests there? Oh my gosh, it's gorgeous! It's just gorgeous. Of course, I will say... I—and we should probably all make this clear, where you stand—I was always firmly team Jacob, personally.

Raleigh: Hmm. I was always very team Edward.

Sydnee: Hmm.

[pause]

Taylor: I—I'm team...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: ... team Bella should spend some years working on herself, and—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —coming into her own, and then maybe decide. Not when she's a teenager. But that's—that's real life, and that's—you know, I think it's funny, because I was—I think I was mentally comparing it to *The Hunger Games*, and—I don't know, maybe because it's two popular series that were meant to appeal to teen girls, and star teen girls. And *The Hunger Games* has a sort of political edge to it. It has a very, like—there's a lot of, uh... ideas about morality that you can kind of get behind with *The Hunger Games* that *Twilight* does not have.

But, like, why does media—why does media specifically for teenage girls need to pass some sort of—"There's—there's—there's fiber here, there's good content, or else you can't enjoy it."

Like, why does it need to pass that standard? And it doesn't, actually.

Sydnee: Mm-mm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, it doesn't. It is there—yes, like Syd said, they're beautifully shot. It's a fantasy fulfillment. There's definitely some sort of toxic ideas about relationships that as long as you don't take to heart and understand that they just exist in a fantasy world, there's nothing wrong with that.

So, you know—but I'm not gonna break the tie, though, because I actually don't—I doubt both of them had... were not attractive—I can't—I—I liked Alice. I was team Bella and Alice. [through laughter] Just go off on a—

Raleigh: I will say—

Taylor: —I also liked the—the southern boy. I thought he was cool, too. They could just go and—

Rileigh: Jasper?

Taylor: Jasper.

Sydnee: Oh, yeah, Jasper.

Taylor: I liked Jasper.

Rileigh: Jasper was always my favorite vampire. I liked Jasper more than Edward, always. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. I would've been fine with just Jasper, Alice, and Bella, just learning about life together. That's a different fanfic, though. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Uh, yeah. No, that's true. I just always thought, like—

Rileigh: You probably like Carlisle, right?

Sydnee: [unsure] Yeah.

Rileigh: Like—

Sydnee: I—I did—so—

Rileigh: Eternal doc?

Sydnee: —so that was what I was thinking about. Like, the idea that you can live forever and do anything, 'cause you have, like, superpowers, and apparently all the money in the world, too, they managed to accumulate somewhere. Um, I guess if you live long enough.

But they, uh—but, like—so, they choose to go to high school over and over again is what those vampires, the kid vampires, do. They're not kids. They're not kids.

Rileigh: No.

Sydnee: But they choose to just keep going to high school. I think that sounds like a bummer, personally.

Rileigh: I would not choose that.

Sydnee: No. I think that sounds like... I don't know why that would be your choice. But being a doctor forever would actually be pretty fulfilling, because, like, you would get to learn so much, and watch medicine evolve real-time and, like... I mean, I guess you'd know all the—like, the personally really bad stuff you did before, because you didn't know better. And then, like, you watch science progress and you're like, "Wow, that was [holding back laughter] really awful that I used to treat you that way. We didn't know what we were doing."

But still, that would be really cool. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah. I guess part of it, though, is like—

Sydnee: [laughs] I guess if I could live forever, I would just work all the time!
[laughs]

Raleigh: If you could be a vampire... I mean, part of it, though, is you don't get to choose when you become a vampire. Well, I guess Bella did. But, like, the rest of 'em didn't. So, Carlisle was a grownup. So, like, him being a doctor forever was believable. Like, this man looks like he could be old enough to be a doctor. But if you're 17... you might not always look, you know, like—at a certain point, people, through your medical school career and then your career are gonna be like, "This dude doesn't... ever age."

Sydnee: Do you think it's interesting that, like, they bring up the idea of an immortal child in the later series? Like, it is—so, in this vampire lore, which is unique vampire lore, I would say, it is not okay to turn a kid into a vampire. That's bad. That's, like, the one thing that you can get in a lot of trouble for, it seems like. And they think that Bella and Edward have done this, because they had a baby. Renesmee.

Taylor: [muffled high pitched laughter]

Raleigh: The... CGI'd—

Sydnee: The teeth!

Raleigh: —horrible baby—[laughs]

Sydnee: The teeth that are just there on that baby right away.

Rileigh: Oh, no!

Sydnee: Is a lot. Uh, but what is their definition of a child? Because technically Edward was 17. And it's true, like, you are locked into being 17 forever, which is, like, cool in terms of, like... [pause] I don't know. I mean, I guess if you're—

Rileigh: Is it cool in terms of anything?

Sydnee: —well, I mean, if you're Edward you look like Robert Pattinson, so that's cool.

Rileigh: I guess. But it's, like... you're not even technically an adult. You don't... I mean...

Sydnee: Well... but, I mean, I don't know. I think that that's—yeah, I guess that's true.

Rileigh: I guess if you look like Robert Pattinson.

Sydnee: But you are kind of condemning them. Like, if they want to be part of normal society, do they have to just go to high school forever? That—oof.

Rileigh: How do they get, like, a believable birth certificate or driver's license or something? Because, like, what's their date of birth? It's, like, a hundred years ago.

Sydnee: Well, they can just talk people into things, right? Isn't that part of their—

Rileigh: Oh, I guess that's true, that's true.

Sydnee: —they, like, charm you? [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah... well, then I guess it really wouldn't matter what age you are.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Right?

Rileigh: You can pretty much do whatever you want.

Taylor: Yeah. 'Cause, to be fair, there are a lot of 17-year-olds out there that I'd be like, "Eh, 25, maybe? Let me see your ID." Like, I—you know.

Rileigh: That's true.

Sydnee: That's true. Like, nobody—was anyone in that movie actually the age that...

Rileigh: Oh, there's no way Robert Pattinson was 17 years old.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: No.

Rileigh: Hold on. I need to research this very quickly.

Sydnee: I don't think he was 17. I don't think that, uh, uh, Kristen Stewart was 17.

Rileigh: Okay. The first movie—

Sydnee: Taylor Lautner was younger.

Rileigh: —came out in 2008, which is 12 years ago. And Robert Pattinson is currently 34, so he was 22.

Taylor: Oh.

Rileigh: So not too far off.

Taylor: So he's my age.

Rileigh: Um... yeah. And Kristen Stewart is currently 30, so Kristen Stewart was 18.

Sydnee: Hm!

Rileigh: In the first movie. So basically...

Sydnee: Well... [pause] um—

Taylor: But Syd, don't you think it get—this is a—just—a vampire doctor specific question. If you knew that you had a cure to all illness by biting somebody, but it would come with the eternal life, you know, secondary condition I guess, wouldn't that be hard? Like... would you let people die from conditions knowing you could save them? Is that in some way a bad physician?

Sydnee: You know, that's—it's... what you're, I think, hitting at is that there are so many characters and ideas presented in the *Twilight* lore—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —because—because you're taking this idea that you have vampires who just desperately want to live [snorts quietly] like, mundane human lives, except over and over again for all eternity. [laughs] Um, you get, like—I wanna see that movie. Could we please explore that? Like, let's talk about that for a whole book series and film series, like, what that would be like. 'Cause ye—I mean, on one hand yes, but on the other hand, Carlisle, much like Edward, they have some sort of religious beliefs that guide some of their actions.

Like, with Carlisle, some of it is doing—it's like this intrinsic morality, right and wrong. But then some of it—like, Edward talks in very, like, Judeo-Christian terms about... you know. Bad and good and right and wrong.

[Siri speaking unintelligibly]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And—[laughs quietly] I was not asking you, Siri. Um, but I think that, like... Carlisle also probably has some of that that he's, like, putting into his work. I don't know. That's interesting! I—I—yeah. I mean, you couldn't all the time because you're kind of making them maybe demons, we don't know. And also, what if you—what if you turn a bunch of people, and they decide not to follow in your footsteps, but go eat other people?

Taylor: Which apparently happens.

Sydnee: They've you've done net harm.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know. These are fascinating questions!

Taylor: I mean, that's, like—'cause, like, his family, Carlisle's family, I mean, like, you know, the... main—main sparkly boy—oh my gosh, I'm sorry. Uh, Edward.

Sydnee: Edward.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Uh, he turns him because he's dying of—what does he have? He has some sort of disease—

Rileigh: The Spanish Flu, right?

Sydnee: Yeah, he was part of the Spanish Flu pandemic.

Taylor: So—so he made the choice that it's better for him to live eternally as a... [pause] blood-consuming demon than to die of the Spanish Flu at the age of 17. That's in interesting... moral call!

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. It's... [pause] I think that there are—I think Alice's story would be fascinating to explore more. You get little hints that, like, she was in, like, a psyche hospital or something, at some point before she was turned? And, like, you get little hints of what might've been going on with her.

Um, Jasper has that whole... weird... Civil War—

Rileigh: Southern thing, yeah.

Sydnee: —story goin' on. Um, Rosalie's story is intense. That's an intense story that you could explore more. I don't really remember anything about Emmett. I think a... bear?

Rileigh: I forgot about Emmett.

Sydnee: There was a bear, maybe?

Rileigh: [snorts]

Taylor: [excited] A vampire bear? Was he turned—

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Taylor: —is that why—

Rileigh: The bear bit him and turned him into a vampire! [laughs]

Taylor: —is that why he's so big? It was a bear?!

Sydnee: [laughs] I don't—I don't [unintelligible]—I think a bear got him? I don't really remember. Um...

Rileigh: [laughs quietly] I actually don't remember.

Sydnee: Did we ever learn where Esme came from?

[extended pause]

Rileigh: I don't remember.

Sydnee: There are stories among all these people that would be—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] I mean, maybe they're in the books.

Sydnee: —I wanna hear the story of the really bored Volturi. Remember the one Volturi? His entire deal is that he just sits there looking incredibly bored, because he's been alive so long that abs—there is literally nothing interesting to him left? *That* is a story I need to hear! [laughs]

Taylor: Is he the one who in the vision when he gets his arms ripped off he's like, "Finally."

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, "I'm donezo. I'm dead. Ugh, thank—thank this werewolf, I'm dead."

I—okay. Uh...

Sydnee: Yes!

Taylor: I just—

Sydnee: These are the stories I wanna hear. Instead that—there was another book that was the *Short, Sad Unfortunate Li—something of Bree*.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Remember? There was this other story about the little vampire Bree, who is—

Taylor: Oh, was that the... yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. So, that is a short story on the side that you can read that is very sad. I read it, and then I was sad. Um...

Rileigh: It's very sad.

Sydnee: And then of course there's the new book that's out.

Rileigh: *Midnight Sun*.

Sydnee: About Edward. Like, it's just the *Twilight* story from his perspective.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um... but I wanna hear these other stories. This is the world that—you know what?

Rileigh: This is Sydnee's call to Stephanie Meyer.

Sydnee: Stephanie Meyer did a lot of world building, and we need more. [laughs]
Right?

Rileigh: Uh, I would also like to add—this is unrelated—Taylor Lautner was only 16 in the first movie.

Taylor: Oh, wow.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Rileigh: And I feel like that's important to put out there, because... he's shirtless a lot in that movie [holding back laughter] and he's only 16.

Taylor: That... I was gonna just say, that poor character, but I guess that's what I mean. Because I think it was a—I think the writing of the character was really fun. Like, I think he was a fun character, but the amount of time, the amount of excuses they had for him to just not be wearing a lot of clothes, to be a—a very young person? I—I did—I just felt like that was not fair! Like, I get that he's a werewolf but, like, he's also... he's a young human boy. Can we not parade him around all the time, naked?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And al—yeah.

Taylor: Once again, it's for teenagers, it's not for me, so that's why that's fine—

Sydnee: No...

Taylor: —but also not fine for me. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah, I know what you mean.

Sydnee: Well, and then when you get into the Jacob storyline, then we get into Renesmee and—

Taylor: Yoo. Oh my—[high pitched noise]

Raleigh: She's a baby, and he's—yeah, there's a lot there.

Sydnee: Everything is—[shakily] yeah, yeah, okay.

Taylor: The—the moment when Bella is a vampire and so she's, like, beatin' up on Jacob 'cause she just found out that he imprinted on her baby, and her—her angry attack is, "You nicknamed my daughter after the Loch Ness monster?" 'Cause he calls her Ness—Nessie. Like, that's her thing, and it's, like, a real line that's said in a real movie for dramatic pause. And I'm just like, "What is this—what are these movies?!" [laughs]

Raleigh: They're a trip. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Well, you gotta remember, they told us what they were the moment in that first film—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —when Bella drops the apple—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —on the ground in the cafeteria, it bounces off of Edward's shoe... and magically lands in his hands, just like the cover of the first book. And he reaches out to her with the apple. And it's like, "[loudly] Do you get it? It's like Eve! Do you get—and the apple! Do you get it?! He's evil! Do—do you see it?!"

Raleigh: [laughs] "[loudly] And now she's going to be evil!"

Sydnee: "[loudly] She'll bite it soon! Do you get it?!" [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: It's true.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I'm just like—I like that the kind of ideas to why [unintelligible]—like, why they were so attracted to each other and why everything happened with Bella is Bella was born to be a vampire.

Sydney: Yes! [laughs]

Taylor: You were meant to be a vamp—and once again, total teen fantasy. Totally understand. Definitely—if these books had come out when I had been, like, 14, 15, probably would've been like, "Yes, me too!" But it's like, no, it's just 'cause you're, like, kind of—you fall down a lot? And you're—you're... kinda awkward? Like... I don't know! Why—[laughs quietly]

Sydney: "I was always clumsy as a human, so I knew I was meant to be a vampire."

Taylor: Oh no...

Sydney: Either that, or Sailor Moon. Those are the two things you become when you're clumsy.

Taylor: See, I went in the other direction. So, you know.

Sydney: You went Sailor Moon.

Taylor: That's what I [unintelligible].

Sydney: Uh—

Raleigh: Or Velma.

Sydney: Oh, well there's me!

Raleigh: There you go. [laughs]

Sydney: [laughs]

Taylor: That's the—that's the best choice, I think.

Sydney: Well, I—I have thoroughly enjoyed this, Raleigh, thank you for letting us talk about *Twilight*.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Thank you all for—

Taylor: Oh yeah, and—

Raleigh: —yeah, thank you all for watching *Twilight*.

Taylor: —no, and I—and I—I—I'm sorry. I feel like I—I made a lot of jokes, but I did—I enjoyed them in the same way I enjoy some of my favorite Halloween movies, in that they're bad but they're good?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, I laughed, I was entertained, I will definitely watch these movies again. And also, anything that brought you, Raleigh, joy as fantasy, that's all it had to do to get my seal of approval.

Raleigh: Well, thanks, Tey. Thank you for watching.

Sydney: Yeah, I will always—I will always love the *Twilight* books and movies. I will watch them, I will probably read them again, um... I will—

Raleigh: I just started reading them again.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydney: —I will always fast forward past the moment where he calls Bella a spider monkey, 'cause that's a lot. But other than that one moment—[laughs]

Raleigh: There are a lot of moments that are a lot.

Sydney: "Hang on, spider monkey." [groan-laughs] [pause] I'm gonna leap on some trees, like vampires do!

Raleigh: [through laughter] Mm-hmm?

Sydney: Anyway. But I love 'em.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Alright.

Raleigh: Um, Sydnee, what—[laughs quietly] what's next, since it took us 20 minutes to figure out the number of weeks in a month? [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Oh my gosh. I know. Um, well... I'm on hospital service. I'm tired. Uh, we're gonna talk about *Scream*.

Taylor: Yeahhh!

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Uh, again, I think we should probably focus on the first? But the whole trilogy seems...

Raleigh: I'm gonna end up watching... yeah, all of them.

Taylor: Well, and there's a fourth one, too. There's a...

Sydnee: Oh yeah.

Taylor: I—

Raleigh: Oh! And there was an MTV Teen TV series.

Taylor: Oh, that's right.

Sydnee: And there's a new one coming out, right?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [softly] What? What?!

Sydnee: But we should focus on the original trilogy, right? 'Cause the fourth one came a while later.

Taylor: It just came out, I think, maybe in the last—I was gonna say recently, I think in the last decade. But it's definitely, like, the main characters are now in their 30's, where they started out in high school, and, you know, you have a new, younger group that's more in... the younger age range, so yeah. I don't—I don't—

Sydnee: Let's just focus on the trilogy.

Taylor: Yeah. Also, because we talked about Scooby Doo and didn't bring up Matthew Lillard, and I'm upset about that. So now we can talk about [through laughter] Matthew Lillard.

Sydnee: Perfect. It all comes full circle.

Raleigh: Yep.

Sydnee: Well, thank you both. This was fun. Um, I enjoyed watching *Twilight* and making Justin watch about ten minutes of it before he bailed.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Aw, that was it?

Sydnee: That was it. Um, he'll watch *Scream*, though. Uh, thank you, listeners. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org if you have thoughts or suggestions or questions or comments. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. Thank you to Maximum Fun, that's the network that we're on, and you should go to Maximumfun.org, and because there are lots of great podcasts that you would enjoy listening to. Uh, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

[theme music begins in the background]

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

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

Raleigh: [quietly] Scooby Dooby Doo!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, Bill Nye was, like, a sentient... car or something?

Taylor: What?

Raleigh: What? In the Scooby Doo movie?

Sydnee: Yes!

Raleigh: That's a lot.

Sydnee: I'm just telling you. Go and watch it.

Taylor: I thought you were going back to *Twilight*, and...

Raleigh: [through laughter] I did too!

Sydnee: [laughs] And Bill Nye is in *Twilight*.

Taylor: Is Bill Nye an eternal scientist? Is that what you're telling us?

Raleigh: I hope so.

Taylor: Is that what you would do if you were a vampire?

[pause]

Sydnee and Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I—I hope Bill Nye is a vampire, just so he can be around forever.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

[music plays]

Taylor: Hi, I'm Teylor Smirl, and I know what you're thinking. This music does not sound like *Neat! The Boozecast*, and you're right! It does not. That's because this is an all new *Neat! The Boozecast*. Now, I'll still be here, Teylor Smirl, pro New York bartender. I will be serving you knowledge as well as cocktails. But I will also have a new cohost.

Tommy: Hi! That's me, Tommy Smirl. I'm Tey's dad! And while I'm not a bartender, I do have almost 50 years of experience drinking!

Taylor: [laughs]

Tommy: As well as learning its history and trivia.

Taylor: So, while we might sound a little different, we will still be the *Boozecast* that you've come to love. Uh, so join us every Thursday on...

[pause]

Tommy: *Neat!*

Taylor: [laughs quietly] I'm calling this Round Two: Drinking With My Dad.

Tommy: Cheers!

Taylor: You like that?

Tommy: Yeah! And please join Tey and I, starting at episode 60.

Taylor: Alright!

[music plays]

[cheerful music plays]

Dave: Are you feeling elevated levels of anxiety?

[chime]

Do you quake uncontrollably even thinking about watching cable news?

[chime]

Do you have disturbing nightmares, only to realize it's two in the afternoon and you're up?

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