

Still Buffering 234: "Scream" (1996)

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl!

Sydnee: Well, this is our last episode in the—in this time of unknowing.

Raleigh: Thinking about that makes me wanna vomit, for so many reasons.
[laughs quietly]

Sydnee: This is—

Taylor: [laughs] I wanna say, I think that that's a slightly optimistic view. I hope this our last episode in our time of unknowing. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, me too, me too. This is Schrodinger's episode.

Raleigh: [exhausted groan]

Sydnee: Schrodinger's election.

Taylor: Will—will we look back on this and think of how naive we were? [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: We're at a moment where Trump has both won and lost. We do not know which path will happen. I don't wanna open the box, 'cause I feel like... [holding back laughter] either—either way, I fear [through laughter] what's inside.

Raleigh: I have no comfort until whatever that day is in January that there's an inauguration. I don't care what the results are. I have no peace until then.
[laughs]

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: Yeah...

Taylor: We keep talking about, like, "Oh, how did we end up in the worst timeline?" Okay, so here's—here's our chance to timeline correct slightly. [through laughter] I just hope we do it. I hope we get back to not the worst timeline.

Sydnee: I, uh... oof. Yeah. There's a chance that when we record our next episode we'll know. There's a chance we won't know, and I think it's important to remember that just because we don't know who won an election doesn't mean that the guy who's President already gets to declare he's still President. That's, like, not part of the rules, and sometimes I get the impression that maybe he thinks it is... a rule? That, like, "Well, we don't know, so I guess I'm still President."

And that's not how that works. Um...

Raleigh: The worst—

Taylor: I think that's what his plan is!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes. Uh-huh. [laughs]

Raleigh: The worst possible outcome, that seems very unlikely in the course of human history, but actually probably—considering the year we've had, is probably very likely—is, like, in *Veep* when they have a tie, which has never happened before. Like, an electoral college tie. So then they have to send it to a vote in, like, the House, but then it's a tie there, too. So then it just ends up being a vote between the two Vice Presidents, and which one of them will be President, in the Senate. Like, that's what's gonna happen. We're just gonna have all these different layers to this election. No one's gonna know what it's gonna be until, like, next summer, next election in 2024—I don't even—[through laughter] I don't know.

Taylor: At what point does it come down to arm wrestling? [pause] Just...

Raleigh: Um...

Taylor: Just mano y mano? I—I don't—I feel—I feel like—I feel like Biden could take him.

Sydnee: My money's on Biden in that scenario.

Raleigh: Yeah. He rides that bike a lot.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: He seems pretty active.

Sydnee: Trump doesn't seem like he's the active type.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: No. Well, golf, I mean, he—

Raleigh: Well, that's not—I mean...

Sydnee: —he has, like, as President, probably played more golf than any other President ever.

Raleigh: Or any other person ever.

Taylor: [through laughter] He has, yes.

Sydnee: Or any other person. I mean...

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Even, like, professional golfers.

Sydnee: Really—yeah, except for professional golfers whose job it is to play golf all the time...

Raleigh: It's almost like it's his job to play golf all the time.

Sydnee: Yeah, it's weird. I thought he had another job, but I guess he didn't. Yeah.

Taylor: Well, it—yeah.

Sydnee: It certainly wasn't [through gritted teeth] controlling the pandemic!

Taylor: Nope. Nope.

Raleigh: Oop! [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah... so—so—I don't know. I guess—well, it'll still be—there will still be time to help course correct our country by the time you hear this podcast, so... I—I sure hope anybody that's still on the fence on whether or not they're voting will, uh—will do the right thing.

Raleigh: Please vote.

Sydnee: Yes, please vote.

Raleigh: 'Cause this year it's—it's—I mean, this is always kind of the case, but Election Day is not the election. Election Day this year is, like, the end of the election. So many people have already voted. Um, but also, if you're doing an absentee, mail-in ballot, drop it off at this point.

Sydnee: Yeah, don't mail it.

Raleigh: Don't mail it.

Sydnee: It's too late to mail it. Go drop it off. Um, I know that's harder for some. I know that in Texas specifically they've tried to make that as difficult as possible.

Raleigh: Although it is now a very close call in Texas, which is, you know, usually very red.

Sydnee: And it's hard, because it's not fair. This is voter suppression. I saw, like, it's basically a poll tax to make people wait hours and hours in line, and drive all the way across the county to try to drop off their mail-in ballot to the right place. It is, and it shouldn't be that hard, but it is that hard right now, so we have to overcome it, and then maybe we just stay on the people who win to fix this crap... for the future.

Taylor: Yeah, 'cause like, I know—I mean, I know Biden wasn't my first pick. But I—I—it's the right choice, given everything that the world is facing. And, you

know, once we get through this election, we've got four years to get better options up on ballots. Uh, so, you know, don't—this is just a—this is just a—a—a very important band-aid that our nation needs [through laughter] while it is actively bleeding out.

Sydnee: Yeah. This is goal-directed care. This is about the... well, what previously were the ABC's. When you're trauma management. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: When somebody—when somebody is trying to die, you have to stop them from dying before you start figuring out [laughs quietly] what all caused it to begin with, and addressing those concerns. First, first you gotta keep 'em alive.

Taylor: Yeah. Especially with the—the crap that just went down with the Supreme Court nominee. We need to get the right people in charge. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes. In this case, it's democracy that has been wheeled into the ER on a stretcher.

Taylor: [laughs] [sighs]

Sydnee: Let's—let's resuscitate democracy.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] And also, like, basic human rights.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Somewhere in there, too.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Oh, man.

Sydnee: So please vote. Please don't give up, be discouraged or disheartened. It is just the beginning, if we prevail with the election, but...

Taylor: And just because you vote doesn't mean you can't protest, doesn't mean you can't take other, more radical forms of expressions. It—I—I understand it's taking everybody a lot longer with the very active voter suppression that's happening, but it is worth your time, if you are physically able to.

Raleigh: Yeah, please vote.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Do you—I got it this time. Hold on.

Sydnee: Oh, okay.

Raleigh: Do you know, um, what thinking about this election makes me want to do? [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Someone—someone fill it in! You know what I'm gonna say!

Sydnee: I—I didn't know we were talking about a movie called *Drink*. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Well, that—I mean, that, too. But I was gonna say *Scream*! [laughs]

Taylor: Oh...

Raleigh: 'Cause we're talking about *Scream*! Get it?

Sydnee: Yes. Yeah, we're gonna talk about *Scream*.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's what I wanna do. Not the other thing. Just *Scream*.

Taylor: Why not both? Have you tried it? [laughs] Have you ever tried to drink tequila while actively screaming? 'Cause we could figure it out! [laughs]

Sydnee: You could aspirate. Please don't do that. [laughs]

Taylor: I won't.

Sydnee: [laughs] Um... *Scream* is a scary film. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, it—it seems so pleasant to change course here and talk about a movie where a bunch of people are murdered. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's—

Raleigh: At least in that universe, like, you know... [through laughter] a lot of things are different.

Sydnee: I don't know who the President is in that universe, so I don't—

Taylor: I mean, it's—it's the late 90's, right? When was this movie made?

Sydnee: Yeah, '96.

Raleigh: Maybe there isn't a President. Think about that?

Taylor: Is that, uh, Clinton era?

Sydnee: Yeah, but is that—I mean, I don't know that it's part of—[laughs] yeah, I think that's right. [pause] I mean, yes.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: But I don't know. I don't know if *Scream*—what I was saying is, I don't know if *Scream* takes place in a different universe, like—

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Raleigh: Also, people could get close enough to each other in that universe [holding back laughter] to murder each other.

Taylor: [through laughter] Right?

Raleigh: [through laughter] You can't even do that now!

Taylor: It just seems wild. Like, what are—that is just incredibly reckless that you would allow yourself to be within six feet of a murderer.

Sydnee: Do you—do you—I know this is—I wanna talk about *Scream*, of course, that's what we're gonna do, but on a side note real quick, this is about—

Raleigh: I know exactly what you're gonna say.

Sydnee: —nightmares.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Do you have nightmares now where, like, you're at a party or you're in a crowded place, something, and, like, you're standing there talking or, like, hanging out, and then all of a sudden it, like, hits you in the middle of the dream, like, "What am I doing? We're not masked! What am I doing?!"

And, like, it's too late, and you know you've been there so long that you could've been exposed and, like, your fr—like, freaking out. Have you had these nightmares?

Raleigh: Yeah. I have had this nightmare.

Taylor: It—it's a—

Sydnee: I have it repeatedly.

Taylor: [laughs] It's our version of the, like, you're giving a report at school, and then you realize you don't have clothes on, but it's—I'm just out in public with no mask on. Yeah.

Raleigh: I've also had that very weird sensation of watching, like, TV shows or movies that were made before the pandemic. Like, "Why are those people so close to each other? What are they doing? They're at a party! Why are they—why is there a concert? That—that's not allowed."

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Everything is—my perception on the world is now just different forever.
[laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Me too.

Rileigh: Who knows if I'll ever be more than six feet. Or—you know. Closer than six feet to someone again.

Taylor: Well, it's true, because it's something that, like—it comes up in discussions of all movies, but definitely in horror movies—things that kind of take you out of the plot, or feel like very obvious devices that make it hard to believe. And now it's just, every bit of media that is made outside of pandemic, you kind of are taken out of the plot a bit [through laughter] by people touching!

It's like, "I don't believe that could happen!" [laughs]

Sydnee: "Those people would never touch! [laughs] They would never be that close together! Why are they hugging?!" Uh... oh, that's sad.

Rileigh: Yeah... so much is.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: *Scream*... I—I love the *Scream* movies, in part because, um—

Taylor: People touch.

Sydnee: —they're very good scary movies. Uh, came out when I was a youth.
[laughs quietly] And they were—I found them absolutely terrifying. Also because... uh, for the longest time, my friends thought it was very funny... to call me on the phone—

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: Hmm, 'cause your name's Sydnee.

Sydnee: 'Cause my name's Sydnee.

Taylor: "[imitates Ghostface] Hello, Sydnee."

Sydnee: And say, "[imitates Ghostface] Hello, Sydnee. What's your favorite scary movie?"

And I'd be like, "That's good. No, I know. That's just just like the... she's named like me. That's—mm-hmm, thanks, good, cool. Cool cool cool. Thanks for that, *Scream*." [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Yeah, these were, like—I mean, 'cause I—these are some of my favorite movies as well, and, I mean, it was like—at the time they came out, the horror genre, specifically the slasher genre, was pretty—pretty tanked. Like, it wasn't—there weren't a lot of, like, hits in the horror world at the time. It was really a cultural reset, and kind of a revival of the entire genre.

Sydnee: Well, and it—it really—I think what made it so—and now it would seem less revolutionary, I'm sure. But, like, at the time, it opens, of course, with Drew Barrymore, who is a big star. And then you see her killed. And that was kind of shocking. Like, "Wait, what?" [laughs quietly] "What is this movie?"

'Cause it already has kind of broken—it's talking about scary movies, so it's kind of meta. It is a scary movie. And then also, here's this big, famous actor who has just been murdered in the opening sequence.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, which all felt very jarring.

Taylor: I watched that movie for the first time, or attempted to, rather, at my birthday party. I think it was in the fifth grade.

Raleigh: [quietly] Oh man.

Taylor: Uh, and I had a bunch of friends over for a sleepover and we were gonna watch *Scream*. We got through that opening sequence, and my friends were so terrified that we had to turn it off. And that... [laughs] that opening scene is just... ooh.

Sydnee: It's very...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, it plays with all those elements that, like—she's there alone, someone's calling, it's—these are all pre-cell phone days, and I guess she didn't have caller ID, so you don't know who. Was it maybe pre-caller ID? I don't know—wait, didn't we have caller ID in '96? I don't remember.

Taylor: No, because they make caller ID a plot point in the second movie, so I do think this is—

Sydnee: Ahh.

Raleigh: Ohh.

Taylor: —and I—I think it also—I think the reason it's such an effective scare is because it's right around the time that we were starting to have things like AOL instant messenger, like, chat rooms, where you could encounter total strangers, or people that knew you that were pretending to be different people. That was a very new cultural experience that I think this movie tapped into brilliantly.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Uh, they're so good with—there's so many scenes that depend on, like, the kind of houses and structures these people live in. The windows and placement of, like, sliding glass doors and things. It's all so... like, you constantly need the camera to look the other direction. That's all so well done. That makes it so scary.

And then of course, like, they introduce all the rules of horror films in order to... uh, mock them. Like, because they break them, and then the horror film falls—like, that's the final thing, is that the movie falls into all those tropes. You know.

And I—it was so self-aware and meta that, um—it was very 90's, you know?

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It fit very well into the 90's. The idea that, like... when you first see Sidney on the phone with the murderer and she says she doesn't like scary movies 'cause it's always some woman running up the stairs when she should be running out the front door. And then, I mean, literally three minutes later she runs up the stairs instead of running out the front door. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah. Um, this was, uh, maybe my first introduction to slasher movies. I'm trying to remember. For some reason, this has always been a genre of scary movies—and I've always liked scary movies, but this has been the one that, like, doesn't really disturb me as much. As compared to, like, paranormal stuff or, like, psychological stuff. Like, just a straight up slasher movie like *Scream*, *Halloween*, *Friday the 13th*, that kind of stuff, never really bothered me that much. I find them very enjoyable. Um, I mean, as much as you can when someone's getting murdered. But [laughs quietly] I do—I do remember watching this when I was fairly young, and... just wanting to yell at everyone in the movie. Because it does have all those movies where it's like, "What are you doing? You just said this was a thing people shouldn't do in scary movies and this is exactly what you're doing."

I do think that's true. It's very self aware, but also still manages to be scary. Even though you know what's gonna happen, right? Like, they set up all the scenes where you're like, "Oh, well this is what's gonna happen next."

But then still manages to, like, "[gasps] Oh no!"

Sydnee: Well, you know, I think that was part of—and it's been so long since the first time I saw it, but I feel like that was part of what made it good for me, is that since they were constantly acknowledging those ideas from horror movies, I didn't know what was gonna happen. Like, I—you know? Like, it kind of played with your expectations, because they lay the rules of horror movies. I mean, that scene is, like, famous now. Like, what are the rules? Don't say "I'll be right back." Don't have sex. Don't drink. You know, all the things that we know horror films punish teens for. [laughs quietly] Because, you know, that's what they've always done.

And then when you see them do it in the movie... well, they just laid out that, like, that's what you're supposed to expect. Surely they're—okay, no, they still get—
[laughs]

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: —no, they still get murdered.

Rileigh: Still all get murdered.

Taylor: Well, there is—there is a lot of—I mean, God, it's such—the first one specifically is so smart. I think that—'cause it's just—it's equal parts funny as it is

scary, and to me that's the sweet spot for horror movies. I love horror movies that have a good sense of humor. And even, like, with the rules, I think there's a lot of really good, like, kind of inversion of those.

I mean, the moment—we're obviously gonna talk about spoilers but, you know, Sidney has sex for the first time, and immediately afterwards she points out a fact that kind of leads her to realize that her boyfriend might be the killer. She brings up the fact that—how did he use his one phone call when he was arrested? Like, and I think that's so funny because it's like, "Oh no, she's had sex, now she's gonna die!"

It's like, "No, now she's just aware of a fact that she wasn't aware of before," you know? Or the person you see say "I'll be right back" is, uh, Stu, who turns out to be one of the murderers. So there's a lot of inversion of, like, the rules actually don't mean anything, you know? Like, leading up to—I mean, starting off with the fact that your heroine, your lead actress that feels like your lead actress, Drew Barrymore, you know, bites it in the first scene.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah, yeah. No, I—and I do like—one thing that I feel like makes this movie—on rewatch, it made me laugh. Um, so set in its time, is that—so, you are made to suspect from the jump that Billy—that at least Billy might be the killer, right? Like, you're set up to believe that, which is why he—you believe he absolutely couldn't be. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Right? 'Cause they make you think that.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And the way they make you think that is that, "Oh my gosh, he has a cell phone!"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] "He must've made the calls! He must be the murderer! Who else has a cell phone?!" [laughs]

Raleigh: Which is a wild plot device in the year 2020 to watch.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: And I do think, like—like, the camp—and it's subtle, but it's present throughout the whole film, and I think there is no character more campy than Billy Loomis. [laughs] Like, this spooky boyfriend played by Skeet Ulrich perfectly. Like, he's so creepy! He is *so*, like, this is definitely, like—he's definitely the murderer. Why was there ever a question? [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And it is! And, like, the whole time you're thinking, "Well, if he's not the murderer he's up to *something*." [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: There's something going on there. [laughs]

Sydnee: He's so creepy! [laughs] It's like, how do you not see it, Sidney?

Taylor: And no other movie could do this, could do that after this movie, because it just—

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: —you know? Like, it only works in the universe of *Scream*. Like, when he just deadpan says, "But this isn't a movie. It's real life," or whatever. Or there's that conver—or no, he says "It's all a movie." That's what it is. And Sidney says "No, this isn't a movie. It's real life."

Like, those are real lines in this movie! And it's like—[through laughter] What—how are these said and taken seriously?

Sydnee: I—I just love those scene—like, imagine that scene in 2020 where you're trying to figure out who the murderer is, and then the boyfriend and iPhone falls out of his pocket and you're all like, "[gasps loudly] That must be the killer."

Raleigh: "You're the only one here with a cell phone."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: You're up to something.

Sydnee: Everybody's like, "What?" And then when she's calling 911 on her giant computer. [laughs] I just—I just enjoy those, like—you can't—I don't know. You can't change—like, that movie is so set in its time in some ways. I love—I always loved that.

Raleigh: That's the thing when you watch old scary—not even old scary movies, like, 90's scary movies. You can't use so many of those devices anymore. You can't use the whole cell phone thing. You can't make it believable that a bunch of teens would be somewhere without any way to call anyone.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Yeah.

Raleigh: Like, now you have to—in scary movies, you have to have some way for them to lose their phones, or lose Wifi—

Sydnee: There's no service, yeah.

Raleigh: —yeah. You can't just say, like, "Oh, well, we're all here alone. Obviously none of us have cell phones."

Taylor: Well—

Sydnee: When, uh—

Taylor: —go ahead.

Sydnee: —when I was watching it, Charlie walked into the room. I paused it, of course, 'cause I didn't want—I had just started it, and then she came walking back in, and I didn't want her to see a scary movie. She's not old enough for that.

But she saw the phone in Drew Barrymore's hand. [laughs quietly] And she went, "What's that?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I was like, "Well, that's a phone."

Raleigh: There's no way she believed you.

Sydnee: She was like, "What?"

"That's what phones used to look like."

Raleigh: Oh, man.

Taylor: But that is—that is such a good point though, because I do think that is one of those moments that always takes me out of a horror movie, when they have to explain away why they can't get in contact with anybody. It's always just like, "Oh, okay. Like, what plot device—" and I think that's also part of the brilliance of *Scream* is that they weaponize the phone. Like, the fact that—you know, there are several times where the person who's being attacked goes to call the police, and the phone rings, and it's the killer, you know? That is so smart, because it doesn't explain away the phone. It literally just uses it as a vehicle of terror.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, I wanna talk more about *Scream*, and then some thoughts about the followup movies. Uh, the *Scream* sequels. But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Raleigh: I wanna—I wanna talk about my hair really quickly.

Taylor: Okay!

Sydnee: You usually do. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I just—hey! No I don't. I just wanna talk about it! Just really fast. Um, so, you know, we all have a lot of accessories in our lives. Maybe a purse or a necklace. But you know what doesn't... count as that same kind of accessory that fits everybody?

Sydnee: What?

Raleigh: Your hair care.

Sydnee: Ah.

Raleigh: We all need something—

Sydnee: That was good. That was good, how you—that was good. I like it.

Raleigh: Thank you. Thank you. We all need something a little bit different, 'cause we've all got different hair. And that's why I use Function of Beauty. It's hair care that's formulated specifically for you, no matter your hair type. They create shampoo, conditioner, and treatments to fit your unique needs, which means there are over 54 trillion possible ingredient combinations.

Sydnee: That's so many!

Raleigh: That's so many! But that's how many different ingredients they have to get your hair the best it can be, and healthiest it can be. Um, it's actually very fun, 'cause all you do is you go on their website, you take a little quiz, and tell them about your hair. They'll ask you, what's your hair type, your length, what are your concerns? Um, and then they come up with a little formula that puts in all the things that are gonna meet your concerns, that are gonna match your needs, and they deliver it right to your door in a customized bottle. Mine has my name on it, and it says Function of Raleigh, and it's very cute. It even came with stickers.

Um, plus their formulas are vegan and cruelty free. My hair has not been healthier since I've started using Function of Beauty, and it smells really good, and also has my name on it, so no one else could even use it, 'cause it's just for me... which I enjoy.

Um, so Teylor, if our listeners want to check out Function of Beauty, what should they do?

Taylor: Uh, you should go to functionofbeauty.com/buffering to take your four part hair profile quiz and save 20% on your first order. Once again, that's functionofbeauty.com/buffering. Get your 20% off, let them know you heard about it from our show. Once more: functionofbeauty.com/buffering.

Sydnee: Uh, hey, siblings. Have you ever read an old work of literature, and enjoyed it, but wished it had gone a little differently?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Especially ones that involve queer teens and/or vampires?

Taylor: All the time, yeah!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Specifically!

Sydnee: Yeah! [laughs] I bet a lot of people have. Well, *Carmilla Revamped* is a modern queer update to J. Sheridan Le Fanu's vampire classic, *Carmilla*, published serially on carmillarevamped.com. New chapters go live every Sunday, concluding in November 2020, and each chapter features artwork illustrated by various artists. So doesn't that sound like a good thing for you to check out?

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: It does.

Sydnee: Yeah! So if you want to, if you wanna read this updated, modern version of a classic, something that might be a little more akin to our tastes and kind of our culture today, you should visit [carmillarevamped](https://carmillarevamped.com)—do you get that, by the way? Re... vamped.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Clever.

Sydnee: Carmillarevamped.com to read a modern queer update to J. Sheridan Le Fanu's 1872 vampire classic, so check that out today! That sounds wonderful. I'm gonna be readin' it.

Taylor: Sounds good.

Raleigh: Sounds great.

Taylor: Sounds gay!

[pause]

Sydnee and Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I think that's the idea.

Sydnee: Uh, so... *Scream*. Back to *Scream*.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Um, cellphones and computers aside. [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Uh, I really—I found *Scream* and the movies that followed to be, um... for me, horror movies are always something that, like, it's weird. I enjoy watching them, but I also kind of hide behind, like, a blanket or pillow while I'm watching them, 'cause I don't want to engage with them too much.

Raleigh: You don't want them to be aware of you.

Sydnee: Yeah? I don't want 'em to see me.

Taylor: [laughs] If you can't see them, they can't see you.

Sydnee: I really do. Especially movies that really scare me, I tend to watch, like, through my fingers, so that I'm not completely enveloped by them, because then they'll get in my head, and then they're really real up there, and then I don't

sleep for days. Um... the *Scream* movies I found sort of, like, irresistible. I always remember, like, I couldn't do—'cause I just wanted to watch to watch them so—I find them very, uh—because they're kind of clever and witty and—not funny, but you know, like...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Clever. Um, I always had that, like—they always sucked me in.

Raleigh: Well, they're not a horror movie that takes them—that takes itself... I don't know how to grammatically say that—too seriously. Like, it's not trying to be, like, "The scariest thing you've ever watched! It will give you nightmares for years!"

Like, it's not trying to be that. It's just—it is scary, and it is about a serial killer. But it's still got those, like, meta, breaks the fourth wall kind of moments that are good.

Sydnee: I also think Sidney is a good protagonist in the sense that—like, I was thinking this upon rewatch. From the first time she gets attacked, she's fighting back. There is very little of, like, hiding, you know? Like, from the first time the killer comes at her, she is kicking and punching and hitting and, like, fighting right back. There is never—I don't know. I really enjoyed that upon rewatch. Like... this is a final girl who's gonna fight for it... kind of thing.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, and that is—I think 'cause the—the way they present the killer—which before the identity is revealed is a very scary presentation, but at the same time, it's not this stalking, like, slow-moving, impossible-to-stop force. It's—the—the killer is falling down and getting [laughs] gettin' punched and tripping and crashing into walls. Like, it's a very physical kind of interaction that they always have with the killer, and I do—I do think that makes the movies a little bit... more exciting and maybe less scary, because it's not like this unstoppable force, this supernatural force that's gonna kill you. This is clearly a person that if you, you know, scuffle enough, you have a chance against, which I think does make for a different movie.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. Yeah, it's not like that Michael Myers phenomenon where it's like he's just constantly walking so slowly, but he's always going to catch you, and also he never, ever falls... or gets hurt, or anything.

Sydnee: It is—it's definitely a different kind of scare, and disturbing, 'cause it's the idea that there are people in your life who, given the right set of circumstances, could become murderous. [laughs quietly] You know? I mean—which isn't, like, a really—if you meditate on that, is a very upsetting idea to just put into the story. Especially, like, Matthew Lillard's character.

Taylor: [laughs] My favorite character in the whole franchise!

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Would you like to speak on your love of Matthew Lillard's character, Stu?

Taylor: Look, I love Matthew Lillard in general. I love him as Shaggy, I love him as SLC Punk. I love Matthew Lillard. But Stu—like, he is just overacting, like just—just... so intense the whole movie, and he's such, like, just this goofy, like, side character, who apparently can be talked into committing serial murders just because, I don't know, his buddy was into it and he's just—he's gonna just do what his buddy says.

Like, the scene where he's—he's bleeding out, and he's been revealed as one of the killers, and his response is like, "My mom's gonna be so mad!" [laughs] [through laughter] Like, and it's played straight, but it's great! I love Stu. Such a good character.

Sydnee: it is a good character, and it's very—again, it's kind of—it's very disturbing 'cause it's like, "So why did you help? Just... "

Rileigh: "'Cause?"

Sydnee: "... because—I mean, you're best friends? So that's what BFFs do? Like... when one BFF wants to murder, the other BFF helps him out?"

It's a very, like—it's upsetting. It is also—the more I think about it, that's a very 90's plotline. 'cause it's very, like... that kind of "The kids aren't alright" kind of attitude. Like, "We don't know what these... [through laughter] teenagers are

capable of today. They might at any moment just murder someone 'cause their best friend told them to."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "You know, with their goth look and their—[laughs] and their loud music and their video games!"

Taylor: But it's such a great counterpoint to Billy, the other murderer, who's just got this brooding—you know, he's so dark and he's so troubled, and now he's got this big reason for why he's murdering Sidney is because her mother was responsible for tearing apart his family. Just, you know, white boy problems. But, like—[laughs]

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: There's a lot of that in the whole franchise. Like, you know, the killers, and it's like, this is... really? Like, this is the reason you commit mass murder? Okay.

Uh, but, like, Billy has all this drive and reason, and then Stu's just like, "I don't—I dunno. Just do it... [through laughter] 'cause my buddy said so!"

Sydnee: [laughs] Just... "I had to do something to kill time."

Rileigh: Um, I do think, though, now that I'm thinking about it, this was one of the first scary movies—I don't know, like, ever that I watched where it's not a murderer. Like, they make you think this is a person, 'cause you've got the same costume goin' on. But then when it's two it's like that big plot twist of like, "[gasps] But that—oh, that explains so much!" 'Cause you've got the people in different places and, like, there are two of them, there's not just one, so we've gotten rid of one. What about the other? And then there are more.

Like, it's not just the one scary person who you can't get rid of. It's the scarier idea that, like, "Oh, but there are many, and you never know if this person is one also." Um, which I think is a really good scary movie plotline.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's true.

Sydnee: No, that is—yeah, 'cause I don't think—I can't of another franchise where the killer changes from movie to movie. It's just the costume that stays the same, but you're right. That is kind of the brilliance of the franchise.

Sydnee: It introduces an element of the "whodunnit?" Which is not—usually those are very different films, right? Kind of like your murder mystery film, and then your straight up, like, slasher horror film. Both involve murder. [laughs quietly] But they're usually very distinct in the way it's presented, because in a murder mystery I'm usually not scared. You know? You don't, like—the deaths are presented kind of, like, abstractly, and more as, like, you're trying to solve the crime as opposed to in a slasher film where you're supposed to be scared of it.

And *Scream* really walks that line sometimes. Where you're not sure which one it—which maybe is why, like—you're right, I never found it... I wanna say I never found it incredibly scary, but on the flip side... when you are home alone, after you have seen *Scream* and you're a young person and you're home alone and that phone rings, there's always a moment where you think, "Oh, okay."

Raleigh: "This is it." [laughs]

Sydnee: "This is it. This is when I get—[laughs] this is when they come to get me." [laughs]

Taylor: Back when we had house phones that rang. Like, that's also kind of lost really, right?

Raleigh: [laughs] Yeah.

Sydnee: Those were scary—listen. A phone ringing and you can't see who it is is scary for so many reasons. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Although it still works with a cell phone and a blocked number.

Raleigh: That's true.

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

Sydnee: Still scary, right?

Taylor: Yes.

[pause]

Raleigh: Uh, I will say, I know we didn't watch this, but I have watched this in the past and I think it's interesting that this is one of the few scary movies that does have a modern reboot in a sense. Um, MTV did a *Scream* TV series just a few years ago with a bunch of teens, and tried to carry over—like, it wasn't just, like, the same plot. It was, like, same universe, same characters, Sidney was in it some point, you know. You've got the multiple murderers.

But it is even more ridiculous, because they did have to do, like—you have to get rid of the cell phones at some point, or are we gonna use the cell phones? But then, like, what about all the other technology? You've got, like, I don't know, hidden microphones and cameras and... it's a lot. But, um, it is interesting, because it is trying to take that very 90's, early 2000's-centric idea and put it in, like, the late 20-teens. Um, the movies are better, but it is an interesting take. It also starts out with Bella Thorne, who is the only, like, well known actress in the show, getting murdered within the first scene, so, follows the same kinda—same kinda plot.

Sydnee: Well, I think—I mean, Taylor, you probably know more. The genre is something you know more about than me, but is *Scream* the first one to set up that kind of idea of, like, a big, giant star that gets offed right in the beginning?

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: Of the movie? 'Cause I feel like that has happened more and more since then, but I don't—I really—when I started watching that movie the first time, I had no expectation that Drew Barrymore was gonna die!

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I mean, like, it's Drew Barrymore! She must be—

Raleigh: You would think that's, like, your main girl.

Sydnee: And I do believe the way that it was advertised, you knew she was in it. It was not—I mean, and you know Neve Campbell was in it too but, like, there was never any thought, like, "But she's just in it for a few minutes." Like, you know?

Taylor: No, that definitely was a—'cause there's always an index kill in a horror movie, but usually the index kill is a throwaway actor. Like, usually it's something that is not—it's somebody you're not meant to meditate on, and I think that instant connection that we had to Drew Barrymore as such a beloved actress—she was the most well known in that movie. 'Cause at the time, Neve Campbell—like, I think this was around *Party of Five* time, but she was not...

Sydnee: Yeah, probably.

Taylor: Yeah, she was not, like, a massive celebrity, whereas Drew Barrymore was, so it really, really was a brilliant move, because I think that got us emotionally invested from the very beginning by just putting a beloved actress as the index kill. It's brilliant.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah. I don't—I remember being very shocked by that. And having that moment of like, "Does she come back later?" And, like, very clearly she—she's not [through laughter] gonna come back later!

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, I feel like they drive that home pretty obviously. Like, she's not coming back later.

Raleigh: Well, I like that from that very first scene it tells you what it is. Like, it tells you this is not a scary movie. Like, you know this does not follow the scary movie rules that you know. Like, right from that very first scene when you see your, you know, conventionally attractive, very famous female actress and you're like, "Okay, well there's your final girl, your main girl or whatever."

Nope, she's dead! It's been two minutes. She's not coming back. Like... I like that it starts that way and keeps going that way.

Sydnee: Um, we haven't said enough, I feel like, about the presence of Courtney Cox, or—[laughs quietly]

Taylor: Courtney Cox's hair! [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: The hair.

Taylor: [laughs distantly]

Sydnee: Courtney Cox's hair.

Taylor: Iconic looks in all three movies.

Sydnee: Everything, so iconic. I think it's funny that, Raleigh, before we started—when Raleigh first got here today she said, "I had forgotten Monica was in this movie."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Well, I did! Like, when I first watched it I had never seen *Friends*, so, like, I never seen her in anything before. And then I rewatched it and I just, like—it was the hair at first, it threw me off. I was like, "I don't—oh, wait. She looks familiar. Oh my gosh, it's Monica! She's definitely in this."

It definitely took me, like, 30 minutes into the movie.

Sydnee: I have to imagine that they realized they had something with—between her and then of course Dewey, with David Arquette. Um, because I really thought, like, "Of course Dewey's gonna get killed off in this movie."

Like, I remember thinking, like, when you think he's dead, like, "Well... we all knew Dewey had to be sacrificed, right? Like, we knew that this would have to happen in this film."

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: And then he's not! And, like, it was such a relief to me, 'cause I love Dewey. And I have to imagine that they saw that, like, these two characters continuing along in this franchise is good. We need to make that continue.
[laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah. But man, they, uh—there are moments in all three movies where they—you think that they've—they're done for, where they get stabbed multiple times. It's really—like, the amount of injuries [through laughter] that these people have endured by the third movies!

Or fourth, I guess. Dewey's another character that it is just played right on the, like, razor's edge of acting and camp. Like, just—you know? There are moments where it's like, "This is not—this is not meant to be taken seriously."

When the killer calls Sidney and then Sidney hangs up the phone, it's when she's staying with Dewey and her friend. And then Dewey goes up to the phone and picks it up and goes, "[seductive voice?] Hello?" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Like, it's such a funny moment! It's like, this is not a serious character.

Sydnee: Taylor, you had made an interesting point, 'cause we've mainly talked about the first movie, but of course many—there were at least three, right?

Taylor: Uh, there are f—there—there was a—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Three following the—four? Four?

Taylor: —the original trilogy, and then there was a fourth one that came out I think in... maybe, like, 2000? I think it was old. But starred Emma Roberts as the sort of new Sidney, but then also turned out to be the murderer. Spoilers!

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Uh, and then there's a new one coming out, right? Isn't there another one being made? Aren't they rebooting it again?

Rileigh: Oh, I didn't know that.

Taylor: I think they're doing a fifth one, yeah.

Sydnee: With—with the original cast. And am I wrong that maybe Drew Barrymore is supposed to be in that?

Taylor: Is she?

[pause]

Sydnee: I might've made that up.

Taylor: Are you thinking that just 'cause there was that very charming clip going around of her dancing with the *Scream* killer? I think that came out recently.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's—listen. Time has no meaning anymore. I might be talking about the original film.

Rileigh: [laughs] Is Drew Barrymore in the original film?

Sydnee: Listen. [laughs quietly] I've been thinking a lot about quantum physics. [laughs]

Rileigh: [exasperated] Alright. Anyways. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: So, that's—yeah. Uh—

Sydnee: Sidney exists in all times at once in some sense.

Rileigh: You or the character?

Sydnee: Both.

Taylor: Okay.

Rileigh: Okay.

Sydnee: And—[laughs]

Taylor: Maybe you overlap. Or is—what you're saying is that in some universe, you are this Sydnee, then you are... the Sidney in the *Scream* franchise?

Rileigh: Are you this Sydnee right now, or are you that Sidney? Is that Sidney you?

Sydnee: Who's to say?

Taylor: Oh, we're really losing track of things in this—[laughs quietly]

Sydnee: In this time in history? Yes. I have lost track of... I don't know. Until you open the box, you won't know. [laughs quietly] Um, what were—tell—you—[laughs]

Rileigh: [snorts]

Taylor: Go ahead.

Sydnee: [through laughter] You had said interesting things about the third movie that I thought—yes. Make your interesting point.

Taylor: Okay, alright. So—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] You get reoriented in time and space and I'll talk about the third movie.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: So, the first movie, obviously big box office hit. Uh, almost wasn't—like, Wes Craven was almost fired from the first movie. I think this is worth talking about. Like, he had to show the footage of that opening scene to get to stay on his own movie, 'cause the studio was so doubtful of it. But then that turned into a massive success. The sequel, *Scream 2*? Massive success. 3 wasn't a big box office hit. At the point, like, all of those stars, they were—by then they were doing other things. Uh, it was really just the box off—er, it was really just the, uh, Miramax, Dimension, whatever, trying to squeeze out some more money from the

franchise, and it didn't have the impact. It was pretty sour in performance. But in a post "Me Too" society, it's rather, uh... it's kind of fascinating that this movie got made. It is produced by the Weinsteins. Like, Harvey Weinstein is a producer credit on this movie, and...

Raleigh: That's crazy.

Taylor: Well, 'cause the plot of *Scream 3* is you find out about Maurine Prescott's past, when she was an actor briefly in Hollywood, was taken advantage of, was sexually assaulted by movie producers, and had, like, a secret child because of this, and that child grows up to be the next murderer, who has this big chip on his shoulder because... I don't—he grew up in the lap of luxury in Hollywood but didn't get to, I guess, grow up in the middle class Woodsboro that Sidney got. I don't really know why he's mad. Uh, but—[laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] But he is.

Taylor: He's very mad. But—but the plot—there's a character in it that is legitimately a creepy movie producer that says, "Eh, you know, girls come to Hollywood. They have to play by the rules or else they don't get parts. That's how it is."

Sydnee: Ugh.

Taylor: And this was definitely written as a callout. You know, there was a lot of conflict between—and the writers on the movie would never say completely forward, "This is about Harvey Weinstein," but they did say "We were aware of what—" you know, it was a very open secret in Hollywood at the time. And it's crazy that this movie is out there and, like, I think it—it's completely—recontextualized in modern senses, I think it's a... it's a superior movie.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, I think that's really interesting. I had never really thought about that, but you're right, 'cause when I was reading some more backstory on the first one in prep for this, I was reading that the Weinsteins were involved in it, and that they changed the name of the movie. It was supposed to be called *Scary Movie*.

Taylor: Oh.

Raleigh: Really?

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Huh.

Sydnee: And then it was called—they changed it to *Scream*. Which of course—

Raleigh: But then they did have the *Scary Movie*.

Sydnee: *Scary Movie*, which was, like, the kind of... well, it was a spoof of a lot of scary movies, *Scary Movie*.

Raleigh: Yeah. Intentionally not scary. Just, you know, making fun of—yeah.

Sydnee: Like a funny—funny movie. Um, yeah. But I think that's really interesting. I had never made those connections, but you're absolutely right. I also totally made that up, or dreamed it.

Raleigh: There was no...

Sydnee: That Drew Barrymore—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Drew Barrymore.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: 'Cause I remember thinking, like, "That can't be right. She died!"

Raleigh: She died very quickly.

Taylor: Could've brought her back as a different character.

Sydnee: But then—yeah, you could bring her back as a different character. I mean, in horror movies—

Raleigh: Or a ghost!

Sydnee: —there are no rule—yeah, she could be a ghost. Maybe there'll be ghosts in this one.

Taylor: But I do think that—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —maybe.

Sydnee: There probably won't. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, 'cause, you know, the thing about the third one is you think that there might actually be the ghostly presence of the former Maurine Prescott, but I do think that the third one corrects something that I really, on rewatch, found disturbing about the first two movies, and that's that there's a sort of... the reason all this bad stuff keeps happening in Sidney's life keeps going back to her mother, and her horrible cheating habits, you know?

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: Like, that's why she was punished, and that's why she deserved to die, and now all these people are mad because of this just mom who just slept around. And that... the thought that that is the source of just this forever pain in Sidney's life always bothered me, 'cause it just seems like—like the basis of these movies are slut shaming. Um, and so I do—I think that the third movie giving some... some, you know, background to Maurine Prescott's possible trauma and humanizing the character a bit more was really, uh, a moment of redemption for me. Like, now, looking back on the movies.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I think that's a very good point, because that is—I agree with you. On rewatch, that is something that, like, is very bothersome about the initial—the whole thing. Um... aside from the fact that a guy named Cotton did not, in fact, murder anyone, I guess.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: With the name Cotton Weary, Gale Weathers, like... [laughs]

Sydnee: I know. [laughs]

Taylor: Just such good names.

Raleigh: They're very good.

Sydnee: They are. Sidney. Sidney, you know. That's just such a great—

Taylor: Sidney Prescott.

Raleigh: Yeah, great name.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. [laughs] Uh, well, thank you both. I enjoy rewatching *Scream* always.

Raleigh: Me too.

Sydnee: Those are fun. Those are not the ones—if it's a possession movie, oof. Those are hard for me.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But these I can rewatch without having to hide.

Taylor: Yeah, I have that in common with you, and I think that must go back to some sort of weird repressed Catholic thing. Like, nothing scares me like a possession movie. [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Those are the ones that, like, get in my head and I, like, lay awake at night after Justin's asleep just staring at the ceiling like, "That's not real... that's—no. That's not real. That's not real. Just close your eyes, you're fine." [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Um, I have to ask, just on the topic of slasher films, what character would you be? What cliché character in a slasher movie would each of you be?

[pause]

Raleigh: I mean, I wanna say I'd be the final girl.

Sydnee: Hm...

Raleigh: But I don't know if I actually have the skills to be final girl.

[pause]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Maybe I'd be the one that dies in the very first scene. [laughs]

Sydnee: I'm too much of a—I would be too arrogant to be the final girl. Because... like... the kind of, like, sarcastic one, or, like... I don't know. This is not really a role that girls usually get to play, right? It's usually the guy who's, like, smart and dismissive and sarcastic about it.

Raleigh: And can, like, fix things and help with things and... yeah.

Sydnee: Uh-huh, and then gets murdered.

Raleigh: Get murdered.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's usually—they don't usually... thanks, Hollywood. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: You're also—you're also a doctor, and I think that in a slasher film there's always suspicion cast on the doctor because they'd have—[holding back laughter] they'd know how to murder people. [laughs]

Raleigh: True.

Sydnee: That—that would—that's true. I probably would be, and I would be just a little too calm, where people would suspect me. Because, like... I would be trying to, like, "How do we get—like, let's make a plan. This is bad." I'm gonna plot. Like, "Let's figure this out. I can take charge of this situation. Don't worry, I'm gonna get us out of this. Everything's gonna be fine."

And then I would get offed. And then they would realize, like, "Oh, she wasn't the killer!"

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: That'd be me.

Raleigh: Yeah. Taylor?

Taylor: Uhh... I don't know. I mean, 'cause I think I fall into, like, the nerdy horror movie fan that would be useful, might—definitely would... at least get attacked. I'm not final—I'm not survivor material, but I might make it through to a sequel, surprisingly. Like, you know, get wheeled out. It's like, "Oh, we got—we got a live one here!"

Uh, but I would eventually die in the franchise, because my knowledge is too helpful [through laughter] along the way.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: But then I don't know, I might also be a surprise killer reveal. Just sayin'.

Sydnee: I—I knew you were gonna say that!

Raleigh: I—that's what—yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I knew you were gonna say "[mockingly] I might be the murderer."
[laughs]

Taylor: I just—I'm just owning the truth. Uh, Raleigh, what about you? I mean, I think Raleigh is final girl material, personally. No insulting you, Syd, but...

Raleigh: I would like to think so. I took a quiz once about what horror movie trope I was on BuzzFeed, and it told me I was the final girl.

Sydnee: You don't think you're the kind to get crushed in a garage doggy door?
[bursts into laughter]

Rileigh: No, I mean, [through laughter] that definitely also could be me.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: See, I'm—I'm—

Sydnee: [laughs] Just sayin'.

Rileigh: I'm on a very fine line between final girl and the one who's just kinda there, and she doesn't get in the way but she's not super helpful.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: And she's just always scared of everything that's going on asking, like, "Guys, are we sure we should—are we sure we should be doing this? Guys, are you sure? Hold on, wait. Are you sure?"

And then I get murdered. [laughs]

Sydnee: You're the friend.

Rileigh: I'm the friend.

Sydnee: You're the friend who's, like, fun and well meaning and terrified and just trying to stay alive, and you know isn't gonna. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah, that's true.

Taylor: Well, that is—that is the character that gets the doggy door treatment in the first movie.

Sydnee: Yes. [laughs]

Taylor: Rose McGowan, the best friend. Yeah, that's also—best friend makes it to almost the last reel, but unfortunately eats it. So none of us—none of us last to the end I guess is what we're saying. I mean, unless I'm the murderer. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, there's that.

Taylor: Well, I won't murder—

Sydnee: Yeah, I'd be offed pretty early. My character usually goes pretty soon.
[pause] Oh well.

Rileigh: You gotta eliminate the obvious suspect. Then it's like, "Who is it?"
[pause] It's Taylor. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Wow. Just—I got—I got talked into it by a—by a—by a spooky friend, alright? I wouldn't—I wouldn't plan it out, but I might go, "You know what? Yeah." [laughs]

Rileigh: Okay.

Taylor: "Alright."

Sydnee: [laughs] "I guess I'll do that."

Rileigh: "I have some free time."

Sydnee: "Whatever. That's fine."

Taylor: I was gonna say— There was some YouTube series that I was watching that was, like, all of the astrological signs in a horror movie setup. And I think more than anything I was just offended. I'm like, "Why isn't the Capricorn the murderer? That should be obvious. Oh, what does this say about me?" [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh, was I the murderer? Were Aries murderers?

Taylor: No, no, the Aries wasn't the murderer. I think actually—they presented the Virgo as, like, the Hannibal Lecter type character, so.

Rileigh: Ohh, that's me!

Taylor: I kinda see it.

Rileigh: Oh, here, wait. I found—I found it. Aries: the first to die. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: See? I knew—I knew I was up there somewhere.

Rileigh: Capricorn—this is probably a different one than what you saw.
Capricorn: the one who snapped and went on a killer spree.

Taylor: Oh, okay, there it is. [laughs]

Rileigh: And Virgo is the one who sacrifices themselves, so I also die.

Taylor: Aww.

Sydnee: Aww, okay.

Taylor: I'm sorry, y'all.

Sydnee: Yeah. See, I just like to think it's because I'd be so useful if I could hang in there for the whole film, so you gotta kill me really quickly, you know?

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: 'Cause I could, like, you know, provide medical care. [laughs quietly]
And then—then what kind of—what kind of slasher film is that where I'm constantly, like, resuscitating victims? [laughs] And nobody dies.

Taylor: Which there's precedent for, because in the second *Scream* there's Jer—
Jerry O'Connell? That's the actor, right?

Sydnee: Yeah, yeah.

Taylor: Who's the young med student. Just a sparkling example of a good, good
guy character who gets murdered, because Sidney doesn't trust that he's as good
as he says he is.

Sydnee: Yep.

Taylor: I think it's really sad that she wears his letters in the third movie.

Sydnee: Much—yeah, that is sad. That is a tough point. Much maligned in the medical profession.

Raleigh: Sorry, now I'm distracted looking at all these "[holding back laughter] What would your zodiac sign be in a horror movie?"

Taylor: [laughs] I just wanna know, what is Pisces? What's mom?

Raleigh: Uh, the one who screams at everything. [laughs]

Taylor: Oh, that's fair. Yeah.

Sydnee: Yep.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yep.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Mom might be final girl material [through laughter] actually, now that I think—

Sydnee: Yeah, that's true!

Raleigh: That's true.

Sydnee: That is mom. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, alright. So, thank you both. Taylor, you're up next.

Taylor: Oh, yes.

Raleigh: Yes, what is—what are we—

Taylor: I know we're moving out of spooky month, but I'm just gonna—we're gonna ease us off a little bit with, uh—I wanna talk—we haven't talked about Buffy yet.

Sydnee: Alright!

Raleigh: I'm excited.

Taylor: So, yeah.

Sydnee: Well, we will Buffy it up next time.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: Um, just—I don't think there needs to be any specific episodes to watch, right?

Raleigh: Obviously the musical one.

Sydnee: Well, yeah.

Taylor: Just—just—I just wanna talk about the Buffy musical, actually.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Can we just talk about the Buffy musical?

Sydnee: We can focus on that.

Raleigh: I mean, yeah.

Sydnee: And then we can talk generally about the series. I don't think we have to talk about any certain—

Raleigh: We've seen it all.

Taylor: And, I mean, I'll probably talk about the movie. 'Cause there was a movie originally, but...

Raleigh: Hmm.

Sydnee: Oh yes, there was a movie.

Taylor: The cultural touchstone was more the series. Um... [pause] yeah.

Raleigh: Exciting.

Sydnee: Alright. Well, that sounds good for next week, and until then, everybody hang in there.

Taylor: Vote!

Sydnee: Um, hopefully... please vote.

Raleigh: Please vote.

Sydnee: Hopefully this will be over soon. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Hopefully by next time we talk, we'll know who the next President's going to be, and it won't be the same as the current one.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: Yes. Um...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Get us out of this timeline. [laughs]

Raleigh: It's a lot to think about.

Sydnee: So, uh... everybody take care of yourselves. Wear your masks. Social distance. Um, cases are surging everywhere so please, please be careful. Look

out for others. And, uh, vote, and drop off your ballot if you haven't already. You can't mail it, it's too late. I mean, you can, but it won't get there, so...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Drop it off. Or if you can safely vote in person, vote in person. And, um... we'll see you on the other side.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: So, thank you Maximum Fun. Go to Maximumfun.org for a lot of wonderful podcasts you would enjoy. Thank you to everybody who emails us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org or tweets at us @stillbuff. You can do those things, and please do. 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'm Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

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

Taylor: Syd, what—

Raleigh: Boo. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Sydnee, what is your favorite scary movie?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: You didn't answer the question.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Maybe if she just answered the question the movies would've ended.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: If I answer it wrong are you going to kill my high school boyfriend?

Taylor: [laughs] Would you care?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't want anybody to die!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Just 'cause I don't wanna hang out with him, I don't want him to die!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Mark: We interrupt this podcast you're listening to to tell you about another podcast. That's right: *We Got This with Mark and Hal*.

Hal: That's correct, Mark. This is Hal. We do the hard work for you, settling all of the meaningless arguments you have with your friends.

Mark: So tune in every week on the Maximum Fun Network for *We Got This with Mark and Hal*, and all your questions will be asked... and answered.

Hal: You're welcome. Alright, that's enough of that.

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