

## Still Buffering 239: The Princess Switch 2 Electric Switcharoo

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[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Sydnee:** It's been a busy week!

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Busy— like, week, weekend, kind of collection.

**Raleigh:** Weeks.

**Sydnee:** I— I mention that because we've been very busy, hard at work like little elves... of Candlenights.

**Raleigh:** Ah, yes.

**Sydnee:** Putting together Candlenights things.

**Taylor:** Ah, that's— that is true, yes.

**Raleigh:** Yes, that is very true.

**Sydnee:** Maybe Candlenight doesn't have elves.

**Rileigh:** What do... we have?

**Sydnee:** Some other sort of mythological—

**Taylor:** Gremlins!

**Rileigh:** That's what— yeah.

**Sydnee:** Gremlins.

**Rileigh:** Gremlins.

**Sydnee:** The gremlins of Candelights.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Have been busy creating content that will be, I think, quite enjoyable to all.

**Rileigh:** I hope it is quite enjoyable.

**Sydnee:** I just wanted to mention that right away, because I'm very excited about it! I'm very excited about what we are putting together for everyone.

**Rileigh:** It's December 19th, you can still obviously get tickets. It's online.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yes, it is not in person. There is still a pandemic.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** But that means more of you can come.

**Rileigh:** Exactly.

**Sydnee:** Exactly, and we're still hopefully raising money for— well, I mean, we are raising money. Not hopefully. I guess I'm just hopeful that people will actually give money.

**Raleigh:** Yeah [laughs]

**Sydnee:** For— I mean, I know you are. But you know what I mean. Harmony House. It's a wonderful organization in our area that benefits those facing homelessness, and I care about them very much.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Uh, but it's been busy, so we haven't had as much time for watching all of our... our holiday favorites? Um... Justin and I of course are far enough into the pandemic that we've been obligated to watch *Schitt's Creek*.

**Raleigh:** There it is.

**Sydnee:** That's what happens. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You reached that stage.

**Sydnee:** If you're in the pandemic long enough, you have to watch it.

**Raleigh:** I haven't yet. I haven't gotten to that point yet.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Uh, it's gonna keep going, and you have to watch *Schitt's Creek*. It does— I enjoy it now. [pause] [bursts into laughter]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I had the— see, I started watching it slightly before you, but at a much slower pace. And I had to stop and question myself, 'cause you and Justin both are very adamant about how bad it is early on and I'm like, "I kinda like it? What does this mean about me? I'm already kind of okay with it on season one."  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** Hey, listen. You and, like, everyone, and all the Emmy voters, so you're in good company.

**Taylor:** Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** It was just— and, I mean, I do— I'm in season four, and I do enjoy it now. Either that, or I just watched so much that I don't— I don't know any different anymore.

**Raleigh:** If only you all could've been a part of the conversation when you all first started watching it, like, first few episodes, because you both were just like— I mean, like a week ago. You both were like, "No, it's— like, how— how are people watching this? It sucks!"

**Sydnee:** Everyone— I found all the characters reprehensible at first, and it was hard for me— like, who do I root for? I don't want anyone to win!

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't feel that way anymore, before I get attacked by all the...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** There is not nickname I could give to fans of *Schitt's Creek* that wouldn't sound offensive or insulting.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So I'll just say, all of you fans of that television program. Don't attack me. I do enjoy it now. I get it. I think. Either that or it's just become, like, so comfortable and safe, 'cause that's all I know now.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** It's the only world.

**Raleigh:** That's how I feel about *Veep* though.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** No one— no one's good on that show.

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Rileigh:** Sometimes you just need a show where it's like, "Wow. [laughs] Everyone sucks!"

**Sydnee:** *Schitt's Creek* makes a turn, though.

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** *Schitt's Creek*— you know how, like, early *Parks and Rec*— they have to make the turn.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. You don't really like any of 'em. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. But they make that turn so much faster. Like, *The Office* made the turn faster. This show— I just felt like it took a while. [wheeze-laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But they made the turn. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I guess— I guess I'm just okay with shows that have no likable characters. Like, I love *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, and the premise of that show are "Here are a bunch of people that you should not like." [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** "Be enter— entertained by them."

**Sydnee:** Uh, it has— we have managed to squeeze in there in between— I regret to inform everyone that Spookley the Square Pumpkin does have a Christmas special now. How is that fair, that I have to have Spookley the Square Pumpkin from the atrocious Halloween children's movie thrust upon at yet another holiday?

**Taylor:** Well, I don't know, Syd. I mean, now that you've revealed yourself as such a harsh critic—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —of a beloved property—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —anybody that listened to you about this square pumpkin fella I think should give him another chance.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I, uh— the girls, of course, love it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Obviously. Um, not as much as *The Grinch Who Hates Christmas*, which is what Cooper will only call *The Grinch*—

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] *The Grinch Who Hates Christmas*?

**Sydnee:** Yes. "Can we watch *The Grinch*—" er, no, *The Grinch Hates Christmas*. "Can we watch *The Grinch Hates Christmas*?"

I'm like, "That's not what it's called, honey."

"The Grinch hates Christmas!"

"I— he does, but that's not—[laughs quietly]"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "I— okay."

**Taylor:** She's got the point of it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She understands.

**Raleigh:** That's the premise.

**Sydnee:** But, um— but hopefully there's been some time for some more adult holiday fare.

**Raleigh:** You know. [holding back laughter] Those classic adult holiday films.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] That everyone knows and loves.

**Raleigh:** [holding back laughter] Such as...

**Sydnee:** *The Princess Switch*.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] *The Princess Switch*.

**Sydnee:** And the *Princess... Switched*— or, what's the second one called?

**Raleigh:** *Princess— The Princess Switch: Switched Again*.

**Taylor:** Again.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Is the full title. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I watched them both, but I... you can't expect me to remember those— [laughs] that second title!

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] It's like *A Christmas Prince*. There's *A Christmas Prince*, there's *A Christmas Prince Wedding*, there's *Christmas Baby Prince*—

**Raleigh:** Yeah—[laughs]

**Sydnee:** You know. Uh, I liked these films, because, uh, Vanessa Hudgens plays more characters, I can only assume, as they go on. And the gambit that they've set up that they now have to deliver on, where Vanessa Hudgens plays an increasing number of characters forever, as many sequels as Netflix will do, I love that.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. Um, I feel like we should clarify, for anyone who hasn't seen these wonderful films.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** The first one, *The Princess Switch: The Regleeur Switch*, um, not the *Switched Again*—

**Sydnee:** Did you say "Regleeur"?

**Rileigh:** *The Regleeur Switch*. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Um, is about Vanessa Hudgens as a small-town baker, a regular girl—

**Taylor:** Well—

**Sydnee:** In Chicago.

**Taylor:** Chica—

**Rileigh:** In Chicago.

**Taylor:** —small town of Chicago. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** A small town baker in Chicago. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Quaint little Chicago. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** They always do in these movies— they're always like— they present 'em like they live in this big city, but then they'll show, like, their little bakery and where they live, and pictures of the city, and it's like, this is not... this— this is not accurate. [laughs]

**Taylor:** That was like Christmas Prince's father that lives in New York and owns, like, what? Like, a deli or something in New York?

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** But it looks like it's from, like, the streets of, like, [through laughter] 1930's New York.



[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Well, they're empty. There are so many shots where they're, like, standing in an empty street! And it's like, where are you? [laughs]

**Taylor:** You're just on a sound stage in New York, maybe.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] So, first Vanessa Hudgens, named Stacey, is a baker. And her friend Kevin enters her in this baking competition. This international baking competition in the country of Belgravia.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Um, where she just so happens to look exactly like their... duchess?

**Sydnee:** It is not the Duchess of Belgravia. It is the Duchess of—

**Raleigh:** Montenaro.

**Sydnee:** —Montenaro, who is there because she is about to wed...

**Raleigh:** The prince of Belgravia.

**Sydnee:** The prince of Belgravia.

**Raleigh:** Yes, okay.

**Sydnee:** It is an arranged marriage. In order to— I guess for international relations? I don't know if these two countries were at the brink of war [laughs] prior to this film. That is not covered.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** But you do get the sense that it's important they wed.

**Taylor:** I hope it's not that important, actually, seeing as how the crux of the movie is that these people are actually not gonna get married, but, uh...

**Sydnee:** That's true. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] These royals are really messing up the delicate international relations with their wacky hijinks.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] The— the third one is gonna be [wheezes] called *The Princess Switch: The War Years*.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's a dark turn for the franchise.

**Rileigh:** Uh, but in case you were wondering, yes, the Duchess of Montenegro is played by Vanessa Hudgens also. The Duchess of Montenegro Vanessa Hudgens falls in love with regleer Vanessa Hudgens's friend Kevin, and regleer Vanessa Hudgens falls in love with the Prince of Belgravia. And guess what? They switch places. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Because she just wants to see what it's like to be a regleer person. Just a normal... just a normal baker from Chicago, who's visiting Belgravia for an international baking competition.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Like normal.

**Taylor:** Just normal stuff, yeah. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Um, so then the sequel, *Switched Again*, they now— Stacey, baker Vanessa Hudgens, is the Princess of Belgravia. She has married the Prince of Belgravia. I think they said this is two years later?

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** The movie— like, the actual movies did come out two years apart, so I guess they're following along with reality's timeline here. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Um, which raises a lot more questions. But, uh—

**Sydnee:** They actually— they actually dealt with COVID really well in Montenegro and Belgravia.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And, um, they— it was not even mentioned. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um, you have to wonder how long ago they filmed this movie, because obviously there are no— I mean, there is a scene in this movie where I looked at it and it was like a Christmas concert, and there were a hundred people right next to each other singing in this giant church, I think, also filled with hundreds of people, and it was the wildest thing I have seen in a long time.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Nary a mask to be found. This was filmed before.

**Rileigh:** This was filmed before.

**Sydnee:** This was in the before. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** The before times. But being reminded that people could be in groups that large in the same room was very startling. Um... but yeah, the second movie, the— Kevin and Duchess of Montenegro Vanessa Hudgens have broken up because now she's about to be Queen, so her life's too crazy.

**Sydnee:** That's never really explained. It's like a miscommunication thing. Like, he thinks she doesn't have room for him. She thinks he wouldn't want to be...

**Rileigh:** Royalty?

**Sydnee:** Married to the Queen of a whole country for some reason? Like that would not suit him?

**Taylor:** She's gonna be just very busy, and you don't wanna—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Too— too busy for him. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] And I think— are we supposed to believe that Kevin— and he has a daughter, by the way, Olivia— have they moved to Belgravia?

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** Uhh...

**Raleigh:** Or are they in Chicago?

**Sydnee:** No, they're still in Chicago running the bakery.

**Taylor:** Yeah, 'cause you see—

**Sydnee:** 'Cause remember there's the scene— there's the scene at the beginning where he's supposed to look scruffy?

**Raleigh:** Yeah! Okay.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** You know, as scruffy as anyone looks in these films.

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, it's, like, very—

**Raleigh:** He has on sweatpants. [laughs]

**Taylor:** —very attractive actor wearing less than the fanciest clothes. And they're like, "Oh, he's havin' a hard time." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Oh, look, this is a rough breakup for him." That—

**Raleigh:** So— yeah.

**Sydnee:** Go ahead, finish— so in this one Vanessa Hudgens has to play three parts.

**Raleigh:** Yes, she also plays Duchess— I have to find— I don't know how to shorten the titles of these various Vanessa Hudgenses.

**Sydnee:** There's Fiona, Margaret, and Stacey.

**Taylor:** There we go.

**Raleigh:** Stacey is bake— the baker. Margaret is the Duchess. Fiona is a new character in the second movie, Margaret's evil cousin, who is trying to steal the throne and steal her money.

**Sydnee:** Basically, she's like— she spent through all her money. She's like— like, you get the sense that she's one of those royals that just goes and, like, parties and spends atrociously. And anyway, she's spent all her money, so she really just wants to take the throne, though, long enough to transfer a bunch of money to herself as a Fiona—

**Raleigh:** To a bank account in the Caymans, as she says. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, and she has—

**Sydnee:** And they're going to spend the summer on Capri, and they need money, her and her two friends, to spend the summer on Capri. And so, she only wants to pretend to be the Queen for, like, two days, to give herself this infusion of cash, and then give the throne back to Margaret and... leave. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** And she's got this, like, little racket set up where her and her two henchmen, like, go to royal events and just rob everybody. So that's—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —that's been her game for a while now. [through laughter] But—

**Sydnee:** They do— they do steal toilet paper, and I do enjoy—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —like, in the context of 2020, they do steal toilet paper. Okay. And later, she tries to give the orphans... a wrapped roll of toilet paper. And I know right now you're thinking, "Did she just say 'the orphans'?"

**Rileigh:** Yep. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** There— as a collective character, the orphans feature prominently in these two films. There—[laughs] there is an orphanage that— in both countries, actually. There are two different orphanages!

**Rileigh:** Yeah! Yeah, there are!

**Sydnee:** That is a plot device in two different countries!

**Rileigh:** There are two orphanages.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Also, it said Fiona was the Duchess of— or, like, her father was the Duke of some other country? So, is this another case of, like, some marriage between royal families to make it so Fiona and Margaret are cousins? Like, were they avoiding a war between Fiona's country and Montenegro?

**Sydnee:** I don't— there's a lot to wonder about, like, how these lineages work. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** I also just can't help but wonder if Fiona is— if she's some sort of royalty, could she not just, like, ask for more money? Does she have to start robbing people and resort to high treason?

**Rileigh:** Well, because the reason Margaret is becoming Queen is because she had a cousin that said they did not want to be— they did not want to take the throne. So, if we are to assume—

**Sydnee:** A different cousin, I note.

**Rileigh:** —that a different cousin was the next in line for the throne, but now Margaret is gonna be Queen, Fiona has to be somewhere in there. 'Cause Margaret was a Duchess. So Fiona— would Fiona not also be a Duchess?

**Sydnee:** To complicate matters more, this takes place in the same universe as *The Christmas Prince*—

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Yes.

**Sydnee:** —so Aldovia's a real country that exists in this narrative. And in Aldovia, King... [pause] *Christmas Prince*— I don't know—

**Rileigh:** King—[laughs]

**Sydnee:** —[laughs] I don't remember his name.

**Rileigh:** King Christmas!

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] King Christmas.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** After he wed Amber, she became Queen Amber. So that's the way their lineage works. So... I don't know who anybody is.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, I have no idea.

**Sydnee:** Uh... all I know is that I hope these countries don't go to war because of all this *Christmas Prince*... ess Switching.

**Taylor:** I mean...

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** ...they—they have so much in common, I don't know why they'd ever fight. They are entire countries that are just *Christmas*. Like, that is...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I wanna know what any of these places look like in, like, July. [through laughter] Because—

**Sydnee:** They're Christmas, and vaguely British. That's the whole thing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Everybody has a sort of British— this is like in— you know it was just, like, all in the US. "What do we think fancy royal people sound like?"

"I don't know. Bad British accent?"

"Yeah!" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "That's right. [laughs] That's what I think fancy royal people sound like."

Uh, so... I don't even know where to start with these movies. Um... I have to say, one thing from the top. Vanessa Hudgens, I think, does a really excellent job of distinguishing one character from the next.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I actually could keep track of who was who, based on, like— not— I mean, 'cause they change their hairstyles and—

**Raleigh:** Their makeup is a little bit different.

**Sydnee:** —the makeup, the hairstyle, and of course their outfits. Um, and then the one cousin is obvious 'cause she's blond, and the other two aren't. But, like—

**Raleigh:** And evil.

**Sydnee:** And she's evil. And she has, like, the really out there accent. But—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]



**Raleigh:** Like a movie villain accent! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes, she does.

**Taylor:** I think— I— she— she had one line where she said, "The powder room, LOL." And I just— my soul left my body.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** She just said the word "LOL" with a fake British accent! An evil fake British accent. Give her all the awards!

**Sydnee:** But I appreciated it because, like, I get the sense that, like, Vanessa Hudgens went, "Okay. I see what it is. It's fine. I see what this is. I'll go with it. I'll do it. It's fine."

And she does do a good job. I could tell who was who by, like, facial expressions, the way she carried herself, her whole thing. Um, and I think that's even more difficult, considering that the thing that was supposed to be different— so, in the first film the big difference between the two of 'em is Stacey the baker is very organized and likes to keep things on schedule and be busy, whereas Margaret the Duchess is spontaneous. [pauses] That's really just the only word they use. She's spontaneous.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Yeah. Spontaneous.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] She doesn't like schedules.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And this is also the excuse given for why Stacey the baker can't make it work with her hot sous chef Kevin.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. Who Stacey definitely should've been with. Like, from the jump.

**Sydnee:** Because she's like— they're, like, super close. She's, like, a second mom to his daughter. Uh, he's really hot. They get along great. So, then they were like, "Well, how are we gonna make it so that these two—" 'cause she's

like—not only is she not into him, like, they make a point of her saying, like, "[nasally voice] Kevin? Why would I like Kevin?"

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** "Kevin?! Are you kidding me? Kevin?" Like... [laughs] every time. And it's like—

**Raleigh:** Yeah. It is unbelievable to her.

**Sydnee:** And it's like— did you— like, he took his shirt off in that one— did you— have you looked at him?! And the reason is, like, "Oh, he's so spontaneous."

**Raleigh:** And she's so organized. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** "And I'm so organized. [through laughter] It would never work." And that's it! And we're all like, "Oh, obviously."

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** "Obviously."

**Raleigh:** It is more— even more unbelievable when you finally see the Prince of Belgravia. And you're like, "Okay. So, Stacey, you have this Prince— like, sure he's a Prince, but... when you're just looking at them, Kevin is still much more attractive than this Prince, and also a lot cooler?"

**Sydnee:** Yes!

**Raleigh:** The Prince is kind of just, like, there.

**Taylor:** Aww.

**Raleigh:** Like, Prince is from the original Disney Princess movies that just kind of, like... exist.

**Sydnee:** He is not given a single line that— like, you know in the script it just says, "Prince."

**Raleigh:** [bursts into laughter]

**Sydnee:** And says that. Like, you don't need any name. There's nothing identifi— he is just, like—

**Raleigh:** What is his name? [pauses] Edward?

**Sydnee:** Edward. But, like, you don't need to know that, because they don't give— this poor guy is given no character traits other than "Prince."

**Taylor:** Well, I guess opposite the whole— the reason that the other couple makes sense is that they're both spontaneous is these two are both— like, why does he fall for the— the Stacey-masquerading-as-Margaret version of the Princess? 'Cause he falls in love with her, the Prince does. And I guess it's because she seems really adept at running a small country. I guess.

**Sydnee:** [bursts into laughter]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That is it! Because she—

**Raleigh:** Logistical reasons. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes! Because he loves her planning and organization, and he just falls head over heels for her. I mean, they couch it in this, like— the royal family holds, like, a big fancy benefit for the orphanage—

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** —every year.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] The— it's just "The Orphanage."

**Sydnee:** But, like, when she asks them, like, "What is the— like, tell me about the orphanage."

They're all like, "Ew. We don't know."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Like, we wouldn't *go* there. Are you kidding me? Excuse me? Go there? No."

And she's like, "Well, maybe you should go there and ask them what they need."

And he's like, "Oh, my heart be still."

**Rileigh:** "Whoaaa." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "I've never— [laughs] I've never had ideas such as this! [laughs] I should go there and ask them what they need!"

**Taylor:** There's also a very, very, uh, romantic— or panic-inducing, in the middle of a pandemic— uh, scene, depending on what timeline you're watching this in, where they play Twister. So, I think that they bonded there.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I think that was a very important... you know. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, they— I don't think they knew how to overcome that, like, she's not royal, and she's American. And, I mean, you know what that means in, like, a film like this. Where you have, like, the royals who are supposed to be sort of, like, proper and stuffy, and then you have, like, the American who comes in and is, like, "Well, she's throwing all of tradition out the window!" You know. Like, it's that kind of thing.

**Rileigh:** [gasps] Is this like Harry and Meghan thing?

**Sydnee:** Well, I don't—

**Rileigh:** Is this commentary? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't know, because she's also supposed to not be spontaneous, and very organized! So, I don't know how to, like... but she's very American, but also very organized. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** How does this all come together? Only Vanessa Hudgens could pull it off, is all I know.

**Rileigh:** That's true. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Now, I will say, I will— I did feel bad for my man Edward in the second film, though. I, uh— however much he lacked personality in the first one, his role in the second one is, uh, like— let's see. His wife is lying to him for no apparent reason other than he's—

**Rileigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** —he just might not be trustworthy. I don't know. [laughs] Like—

**Rileigh:** But they've been married for two years. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She just does.

**Taylor:** It's like, "Let's keep the circle as small as possible. Let's not include my husband, who is gonna have direct contact with this whole charade."

Uh, and then he's gaslit by a small child. Uh, it's like—[laughs] you know? Any sympathy you lack for him in the first movie, you can find it in the second.  
[laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** This is very true.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, that's true.

**Sydnee:** This is very true. Let's— I wanna move on to focus on the *Princess Switch— Sch— Switchedaroo 2*.

**Rileigh:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** *The Princess... Two Switch*. [groans] [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] *Elec— Electric Switcharoo*.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] *Princess 2: Electric Switcharoo*.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Starring Vanessa Hudgens.

**Raleigh:** And featuring Vanessa Hudgens. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And also Vanessa Hudgens. But, uh, first... [laughs]

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

Um, so y'all, 2020 has been a lot. Right?

**Sydnee:** Yes. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It's been—[laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It's been a long year.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:** Um... and I know right now, I could certainly have some more sleep in my life, and a little bit less stress, and I'm sure most of you are feeling the same way. Um, and it's always important to take care of yourself and, you know, your mental health, and your well-being, but I think especially so right now, these, uh— these 2020 times that [laughs quietly] are seemingly never-ending, it is extra important.

Um, and that is why I have started using Calm. Calm has a whole library of programs that are designed for healthy sleep. They have guided meditations, soundscapes, and sleep stories, um, that are narrated by lots of soothing voices, like Laura Dern!

**Sydnee:** I love Laura Dern.

**Raleigh:** I know!

**Sydnee:** You know I love Laura Dern.

**Raleigh:** I know you love Laura Dern. Um, and now Laura Dern can just talk you to sleep in her soothing— her soothing voice.

**Sydnee:** [singing] Downloading that now...

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Uh, over 85 million people around the world use Calm to take care of their minds and get better sleep. I know for me as a college student, sleep is very crucial, um, and also something I usually get very little of. So when I get it, I, uh— I like to make it count, get those good, deep sleeps in there, and Calm helps me get into that deep— what is it? REM?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** Get some REM, go through all the sleep stages. That's good. That's good.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh, yeah. So, Tey, if our listeners want to check out Calm, what should they do?

**Taylor:** Well, Calm is offering a special, limited-time promotion of 40% off a Calm premium subscription at [calm.com/buffering](https://calm.com/buffering). That's 40% off unlimited access to Calm's entire library, and new content is added every week! So, get started today at [calm.com/buffering](https://calm.com/buffering). That's [calm.com/buffering](https://calm.com/buffering).

**Sydnee:** So, just because you might be spending this holiday season on your own, or just with your own little immediately family bubble, doesn't mean you can't be festive. From H to T, and from... [hesitantly] top to pits.

**Raleigh:** [hums uncomfortably]

**Sydnee:** No? No?

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** No?

**Raleigh:** I don't know if I love that. We'll keep— we'll workshop it.

**Sydnee:** Still. [laughs] Still, it's not enough to just look great. You gotta smell great. And Native has you covered, with their new candy cane holiday scent from the Native collection!

**Raleigh:** Ooh!

**Sydnee:** So, we have raved about Native scents before. Um, we all tend to prefer coconut as one of our favorite go-tos, but now Native deodorants come in a candy cane gift set option, so you can smell great, like the holidays! You know, feel festive under there.

They are made with ingredients you've heard of, like coconut oil and Shea butter. It's also vegan, never tested on animals, so that is a product that you can trust. And, um, it's a great stocking stuffer.

You approach your stocking. You go, "[sniffs] What's that smell? Is that a candy cane?"

No! That's candy cane scented deodorant from Native. And it's risk free to try. Every product comes with free shipping within the US, plus free 30 day returns and exchanges.

**Raleigh:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** So, it's never been a better time to try out Native Deodorant and see what everybody's been, um, goin' on and on about. So Teylor, if our listeners want to check out Native, what should they do?

**Teylor:** Well, you can shop Native's holiday collection today! By going to [nativideo.com/buffering](https://nativideo.com/buffering), or use promo code "buffering" at checkout, and get 20% off your first order. That's [nativideo.com](https://nativideo.com), that's D-E-O dot com slash buffering, or use promo code "buffering" at checkout for 20% off your first order.

**Sydnee:** So... obviously we're spoiling these films. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.



**Taylor:** Oh, yes.

**Sydnee:** By the way. I think that's been made clear.

**Raleigh:** I would like to say, though, I think these are the kind of films that kind of spoil themselves, right?

**Sydnee:** You know what's comin'.

**Raleigh:** Like, you get into it and you know what's coming.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean, that makes them very comfortable, I think, this time of year.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** When you start that movie and you know, like, nothing bad will happen here. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. This is safe.

**Sydnee:** This is fine.

**Raleigh:** Hallmark— Hallmark-esque movies are safe always. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yes. Um—

**Taylor:** The first one especially. Uh, the villainous characters are, like— there's, what? The— the manservant who, like—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** —is maybe just concerned about an impostor? Like, for pretty good reasons, uh, in the castle. And then—

**Sydnee:** He's totally right.

**Taylor:** Yeah. [laughs] And then there's, like, the evil baker in the baking competition that Stacey's in who is out to, like, sabotage Stacey's win. But to very little effect. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** She, like, cuts the cord on her... mixer?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And so then she has to smush the berries by hand, and the texture just puts her cake right over the top and she wins. So, it was a bad...

**Raleigh:** Bad move.

**Sydnee:** It was a bad move on that other— I don't remember that character's name.

**Raleigh:** I believe her name was Brionna. Brianna, Brionna.

**Sydnee:** So of course, in the end of this film, as you know is gonna happen, Stacey ends up with Prince Edward and winning the baking competition.

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** Bonus. And—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Which seems like a conflict of interest. Right?

**Taylor:** I was waiting for someone to call out the fact— like, "Okay, here. Here's the thing. Like, you— you royals judge this competition, and now you're one of 'em, so I think you're disqualified. I think that's only fair."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, and then of course the Duchess ends up with, um—

**Raleigh:** Kevin.

**Sydnee:** Kevin. Baker Kevin.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Baker Kevin.

**Sydnee:** Yes. And in a very spontaneous fashion.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** You know.

**Raleigh:** But they don't immediately get married. Stacey and Prince Edward are married, like, within—

**Sydnee:** No, they wait.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] A year.

**Raleigh:** —a few days. Are they not?

**Sydnee:** She says— she says if— she says, "Ask me to marry you— if you still want to ask me to marry you in a year, I'll say yes."

**Raleigh:** That's right. Okay. Okay.

**Sydnee:** They do have them actually spend a year knowing— like, together, knowing who each other are. [laughs] Not confused about identities.

**Raleigh:** Okay, that makes it a little bit better. I had forgotten they wait a year.

**Sydnee:** I have to assume it's a year of her going, "So, tell me, like, anything about you that doesn't start with 'I'm a Prince.'" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, but after that, of course we fast forwarded into *Princess Switch 2*. Uh, another year has elapsed, I guess. Stacey's so busy, what with her baking, and her judging baking competitions. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** And the orphans.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** Of course. Uh, that she barely has any time for the hubby. And he's feeling sad and left out.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] He just—

**Sydnee:** This is sort of part of it. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** His main plot line in the second movie is just he wants to smooch, and there is no time for smoochin'. That's it. That's it. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I do like— I do like how it plays with a very, like, expected sort of heteronormative, traditional kind of thing where, like, he's the busy monarch and she just wants some time with the Prince. And it's not that.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Like, she's like, "I'm trying to run your country, man. That's why you hired me as wife is 'cause I'm good at this, and I'm trying to get business done. And you're just like, 'Hey.'"

**Raleigh:** What—

**Sydnee:** "'You feelin' frisky?'"

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like, "No, I'm trying to take care of the orphans, man!"

**Rileigh:** Yeah, which calls into question, like, he was the— he is the actual, like, royal... ty. Like, yes, she married into being a Princess, I guess, but usually in those situations isn't it, like, I mean, more of like a title thing as opposed to, like, a power thing? Like, usually the one who is actually in line for the throne is the one with— I don't know how it works.

**Sydnee:** It is unclear. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I would guess that he would be the one who would take on most of the powers and responsibilities, because, like, this has been his life for a longer time than baker Stacey from Chicago.

Um, so you have to feel like he has just not been doin' his share of the Prince work.

**Sydnee:** But she's got that spunky American can-do spirit, you know.

**Rileigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's true. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] And in movies like this, you just can't— you can't underestimate how far that will take you. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** You know, it's easy to forget in the second movie that Margaret's whole thing was that she was spontaneous.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly] I had forgotten about that. 'Cause you watch the second movie and it's like, "That is not... "

**Taylor:** Maybe she's changed.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** In the second movie she's sad. 'Cause, I mean, one, her dad died.

**Rileigh:** Oh yeah!

**Sydnee:** Like, that's why she's becoming Queen is 'cause her father passed away. So, like, I mean— well, I mean, she has a reason to be sad. But also, she kind of doesn't wanna be Queen, but does, but doesn't. And it's like a self esteem thing, but also, like, "Do I really want this? You know? It's, like, a lot of trouble. I can't be as spontaneous if I'm Queen." [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** She's not into it. And everybody comes for her coronation, and then inexplicably the two switch again, because Margaret's so busy she can't have, like, the heart-to-heart with Kevin she really wants to have to, like, basically get back together with him. And so Stacey, who is a Princess of another country, takes over secretly as Duchess of— almost Queen of this country, so that the real Duchess can run off with Kevin and get some alone time in an amusement park.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know, like you do.

**Rileigh:** As you do.

**Taylor:** They also have a classic endearing scene of a flour fight in the kitchen, Kevin and Margaret.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Am I— am I the only one that can't stand scenes like that? Like, I know it's supposed to be fun and frivolous, but a scene where it's like just people purposefully making very large messes, I just spend the whole time like, "No! No! [laughs] I'm so mad!"

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And they didn't even— they didn't even need the flour! They were making hot chocolate!

**Sydnee:** Well, and here's the thing.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Here's the thing. 'Cause, like, I do— the thing I like about these Netflix movies over, like, a Hallmark movie is, like, the Netflix movies are like, "You know, it's like a Hallmark movie, wink, wink." Like, that's their whole thing, right?

**Raleigh:** They're self-aware.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** They're self-aware. And the Hallmark movies are not. Uh, so I like that, except that at least in a Hallmark movie, when they start throwing cocoa or flour, it's usually just, like, in their hometown kitchen with, like, the boy next door, and you know they're gonna have to clean it up later.

They're in a castle! So, like, I was watching that scene thinking, "Are you for real?"

**Raleigh:** Someone else is gonna clean that up!

**Sydnee:** 'Cause, like, you know somebody else has to clean this up.

**Taylor:** You just wanna pan slightly to where, like, you know, the servants are, just like, "[sighs] Oh, God."

**Raleigh:** "Really?"

**Sydnee:** They're like— they have to have this sort of, like, delighted smile on their face, like "This is adorable!" But inside they're going, "[through gritted teeth] Are you frickin' kidding me?"

**Taylor:** "Again?!" [laughs] "Could you find some other way to renew interest in one another?" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Just go mooch somewhere! It's fine! We'll cover for you! Stop making messes!"

**Raleigh:** "You have a whole castle."

**Sydnee:** So, uh, they switch places. As we have noted, they do not tell Stacey's husband.

**Raleigh:** Which, they do tell Kevin.

**Sydnee:** Yes, Kevin knows.

**Raleigh:** They do tell their helper, the woman who... I don't know what her official role is. She, like, escorts the Queen, I don't know, to—

**Taylor:** Like the— like the Zazu to Margaret.

**Sydnee:** There you go. Adviser?

**Raleigh:** Adviser?

**Sydnee:** Council?

**Taylor:** I only understand royal configurations through *The Lion King*. That is my only understanding of how royalty works.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Um, so they tell her— they tell Olivia, the child—

**Taylor:** Yeah. [laughs] [through laughter] Just the child!

**Sydnee:** But not Stacey's husband!

**Raleigh:** But they— they don't tell Stacey's husband, and I could not figure out why!

**Sydnee:** And they pretend all day like Stacey's in bed with a headache so severe that she can't get out of bed all day, but every time her husband tries to go check on her they're like, "No, no, no, no. Don't."

**Raleigh:** The little girl is the one who's like, "No, no, no, no." [laughs]



**Taylor:** And then the little girl is like, "You know, do you think you're a little bit, maybe, hovering? Like, maybe you're kind of being a bad husband, because you're so up in your wife's business?"

And he's, like, actually concerned about this! [through laughter] He is gaslit by a small child!

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Uh, and so at a Christmas concert, the evil cousin, Fiona, in order to get cash, kidnaps Stacey, who she thinks is her cousin Margaret. *Kidnaps* the woman who is about to be crowned Queen. That is what she thinks she's doing. That's a big deal.

**Raleigh:** But really, she's kidnapping a Princess, so, you know.

**Sydnee:** She's—

**Raleigh:** Both bad.

**Sydnee:** —it's international intrigue. She's kidnapping the Princess of *another...* I mean, possibly former rival country!

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Because they were supposed to be reunited through a marriage that never happened.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] We don't know the dynamics.

**Taylor:** And it's also not like— it's not, like, a wacky hijinks kidnapping, you know? It's, like, a full on, like, we're in a whole different movie for a second. Suddenly we're, like, chloroforming—

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** —[through laughter] Vanessa Hudson!

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Like, Stacey goes into the bathroom and is like, "Oh, thanks." You know, one of Fiona's evil friends spilled a drink on her to get her to the bathroom, locks her in there, and then Fiona pops out of the stall and just covers her mouth with a toilet paper roll.

**Sydnee:** So Vanessa Hudgens had to chloroform herself there, didn't she?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Oh yeah, she did.

**Taylor:** The range!

**Rileigh:** Uh, but yeah! Then they just drag her, mostly unconscious, into a van. And throw her into a dungeon.

**Sydnee:** It's intense!

**Taylor:** [laughs] I was not ready. I like these kind of movies 'cause they're low stakes, when all of a sudden this— this kidnapping narrative is introduced. I'm like, "Oh, I don't like this. I don't— take me back to the— go back to— make cookies! Do something! Knock— break a vase! I don't like this!" [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** And then it seems like her plan, when, like, Margaret shows back up, who is—

**Rileigh:** Dressed as Stacey.

**Sydnee:** —who has been dressed as Stacey, but is Margaret. She shows back up and she's like, "Thanks, Stace. I got it all cleared with Kevin. Everything's cool now. Thank you so much for taking my place."

And she's like, "I don't know what you're talking about. I'm you."

**Rileigh:** "I'm the Queen."

**Sydnee:** "I'm Margaret." And it's like, this is your gambit? This is the play?! "I'll just keep pretending."

It's like, "No, no, no. I'm— we can switch back now. It's me."

"No, I don't know what you mean."

[laughs] And it's like, okay?

So then she goes away. Uh, Fiona breaks up with Kevin—

**Raleigh:** It's very sad.

**Sydnee:** —after they just got together.

**Raleigh:** Kevin is sad.

**Sydnee:** There's a daring rescue, of course.

**Raleigh:** Yes. Of Stacey.

**Sydnee:** After poor Edward is let in on... the plot.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** After everyone else, the drivers, and the advisers, and the small children are like, "Yeah, Edward." [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** "That's not your wife."

**Sydnee:** "How did you not know?" Uh, and they narrowly stop the coronation of the wrong Queen.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** They, uh— the— the— now, the suspension of disbelief in the first movie as to why they could switch places, it almost works because the Duchess Margaret likes to be out of the public eye, so you could kind of think, "Well, nobody really knows what she looks like, and her and Edward haven't known each other very long so maybe it works."

But all that is thrown out the window in the second one [through laughter] where it's just like, "Here is your husband of two years. How could somebody else be you? I don't know."

**Rileigh:** It does— yeah, you have to wonder. He sits down and talks to who he thinks is Margaret, but it is Stacey pretending to be Margaret.

**Sydnee:** So, his wife. He's sitting there talking to his wife!

**Rileigh:** He's talking to his wife now of I guess a year, but, like, girlfriend of two years. They've been living together. Um, and doesn't know that it's not his wife.

**Sydnee:** And, like, the way that they play it where he's like, "I'm worried that I'm not giving her enough space. I'm worried—" like, that kind of thing. And, like, "I'm worried she doesn't—" I mean, basically like, "I don't know if she loves me anymore" is kind of where he's going with this.

I thought, "Oh, he— oh, okay. He saw right away."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Like, that's what they're gonna do. They're gonna be like, he's— and then he's gonna be like, "Did you really think you could switch on me again? Like, obviously that's where this is going.

No.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** No. It's earnest. It's all earnest. Which makes it even more heartbreaking!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And then later he does believe that Margaret is still Stacey.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** When— when she's still dressed as Stacey and has to be like, "No, it's real— like, I— I am Margaret. There's something wrong. Help, please. I am not your wife!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I think we've traumatized Edward.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** [through laughter] He doesn't know who to trust! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Poor Edward!

**Rileigh:** He doesn't know who he's married to. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Now... go ahead, Tey.

**Taylor:** Oh, no. I was just saying, you know, this all seems like very poor ruling of countries here. Like, these are not the people that I think should be in charge. But, uh, I do like the inclusion, at least in— Mul— wait, where— Mul— Muldaria? Where are we?

**Sydnee:** Montenegro.

**Rileigh:** Montenegro.

**Taylor:** Montenegro. They say that the coronation can't happen without, like, the Prime Minister there. So that kind of shed some light on it. Like, "Oh, wait. Okay. So this is just some royal wacky hijinks, and then this Prime Minister, who's called in for this midnight coronation, and now there's two Princesses, is just like, 'Uh, I need to get back to actually running this place. [through laughter] Thank you for taking care of that one orphanage, and, like—'"

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** That's— that's exactly what— you— y— yes. Exa— that is exactly where I was going. I was gonna say, that is the big relief of the sequel is that you

learn that in Montenegro— and we can go ahead and— let's just assume this is true of Belgravia— and Aldovia, while we're at it.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** They're all in the same world, apparently.

**Sydnee:** That there is a Prime Minister, and a Parliament, let's hope, who are actually running things. And they just give the royal family these... this one orphanage that they get to run. [laughs] In each country, and that's what they get to do to, like, feel good about how they're running the cou— maybe it's not even real. Maybe it's like as soon as the royals leave, like, the parents come out and all the kids get paid.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, for their day's work acting, and, like—

**Raleigh:** "Thanks for making the royals feel important."

**Sydnee:** "Thanks for making the royals feel like they did something again, yes. And you can keep the toys, that's fine, yes, thank you all again. Nice work today! Nice work, everybody! Love to see those smiles!" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "I'll see you back on Christmas." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "See you back—[laughs] now, listen. This new Princess, she wants to really be involved. She may come back twice this year instead of once. I don't know! But— so we may call you in again for an extra day of work." [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Oh, man.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] "Now, not you. You have aged too much to be believable in this orphanage anymore. I'm really sorry. We're not gonna be able to— hey! Come back in a couple years. You could play one of the parents, maybe." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Yeah. We didn't even mention the, um, potential love interest-turned evil accomplice chief of staff.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** Oh, I forgot he was— there were so many—

**Taylor:** An— Antonio.

**Raleigh:** Antonio, who is Margaret's chief of staff who's like, "Silly girl. You can't run a country by yourself. You need me to tell you how."

Um, and tries to... what? Seduce her. Woo her. Date her.

**Sydnee:** Woo her, and then gets in with Fiona on the kidnapping.

**Raleigh:** And all Fiona has to say is, like, "I'm just doing it for money."

And he's like, "Okay, well, give me some money and I'll help you." [snorts]  
"Commit treason." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So then she commits treason. She k—[stammers]— she kidnaps the Princess of one country, she tries to usurp the throne— like, she tries to stage a coup and overthrow Montenegro. And then she's like, "I'm really sorry... about all that."

**Raleigh:** "Oops!"

**Sydnee:** "I'm sorry. I just always, you know, wanted to be like you."

**Taylor:** Yeah, and she says, "My parents never liked me." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah! [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] Like—

**Sydnee:** And everybody's like, "This poor— this poor girl."

**Raleigh:** "Aww."

**Sydnee:** "Aww. I mean—"

**Taylor:** "Alright. [baby voice] You can do a little treason." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** She— and so they're like, "This— you're right, this isn't that big a deal. Um, we are gonna throw you in the dungeon."

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** When she says, "Guards, take her to the dungeon," I half expected the Prime Minister to step in and be like, "Actually, uhh... "

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "We have police. Let's— let's not— we don't need to do th— we don't do that anymore?"

**Rileigh:** And we know they have police because she said that the two evil henchmen were like, "Yeah, they're already with the police. They already confessed to everything," so.

**Sydnee:** So they're gonna, like, go through the criminal justice process in Montenegro, but not this one. She's going to the dungeon with the guards!

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's like, "No, how about we use, like, the justice system?"

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** There was, like, that moment where it was clearly framed as, like, a sentimental delivery where she's like, "Hmm, I'll ask the judge for a reduced sentence." And it's like, "Oh, good. Happy family." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** The, uh— the scene— I have to briefly talk about the airport scene. So, like, once Fiona's been stopped—

**Rileigh:** In the dungeon.

**Sydnee:** —and is in the— safely in the dungeon, she admits that she broke up with Kevin, as Margaret, so Margaret has to rush to the airport. Classic Christmas movie scene, right? She's gotta rush to the airport and stop Kevin and Olivia from



getting on that flight back to the bakery in Chicago so that she can tell him that she loves him.

Um, and so she rushes through all the way— like, I guess she's the almost-Queen, so I guess that's why she gets to get all the way to the gate.

**Rileigh:** I guess she can do whatever she wants, yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know? Um, on her way, though— so she gets there. She tells Kevin. He's like, "I love you too, yay! Mooch mooch," everything's great. And then they're like, "Let's just get married. I see a priest waiting in line for coffee."

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] And I had so many problems with, like, one... this— this priest is just trying to get on a plane to London.

**Rileigh:** It's boarding now!

**Sydnee:** It's boarding now. He's trying to get co— by the way, the line for coffee is super long.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** So long.

**Sydnee:** And they stop and talk to him while he just stands there, holding up this line for coffee for so long. I wanted to say, like, nobody has ever been in an airport that was involved with this scene, 'cause if I were in line for coffee and the guy at the front was standing there discussing, like, wedding pla— I would be like, "Excuse me?!" [laughs]

**Rileigh:** "I have a flight!"

**Taylor:** Imagine that going down at, like, LaGuardia. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] 'Cause people would've been thrown out physically.

**Sydnee:** Or, like, the people who are selling the coffee who are like, "Do you— could you please, sir? Excuse— father? Could you move?"

**Raleigh:** "This is a Starbucks!"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "Please, literally anywhere else." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, and then she's like— he's like, "Well, I gotta— my plane boards in five minutes."

And Stacey's like, "Well, but for the Queen of Montenegro, surely they could wait a few minutes."

And it's like, [flatly] really? Really.

**Raleigh:** Can they?

**Sydnee:** Can they? What if they have a connection, *Stacey*?

**Raleigh:** And they don't hold the flight, to be fair.

**Sydnee:** No, they don't— well, they don't, and they shouldn't! Maybe I'm on that flight and I have somewhere to be! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah! Uh, and it also makes you wonder, how does marriage work in this country? Because they just— they say they're married once they just go to a priest and he's like, "Okay, you're married."

Is there no sort of, like, marriage license? There's no... anything? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] It's just another thing that lands on the Prime Minister's desk.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah! [laughs]

**Taylor:** "Oh, oh, okay. Oh, you got— you got married in a Starbucks by a— by an airport priest? Yeah, yeah. No, that doesn't fly. I gotta fill out these papers now. Thanks!"

**Raleigh:** Yeah, especially with the Queen! You have to think there is some sort of process there.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] "[posh voice] Oh, thank you, Prime Minister. I'm off to the orphanage!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] Great.

**Sydnee:** She's like, "Yep. Good, good, that's good. You do that."

**Raleigh:** "Alright, thanks, Margaret."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, you know, we have failed to mention that there is an odd presence of perhaps a mystical force in both of these movies.

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah, with that guy!

**Taylor:** There is this man—

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah!

**Taylor:** —that kind of helps— facilitates them, like, all the wacky hijinks, and he plays several roles. He's, like, a cab driver, and he works at one of the stalls in the Christmas Village, and it's basically he just kind of lines up the hijinks where they find love. And he appears in this movie too. He tries to stall Kevin from getting to the airport in time. But what is his— his in— his presence is meant to imply? What is this— this overarching, specifically concerned with royal romances god? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Is it Santa?

**Sydnee:** It's very weird, because it is— I think in the very beginning of the first movie, uh, he has an interaction with the Stacey character about Christmas magic.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. On the street.

**Sydnee:** And so, I think it is just to continue this theme that on Christmas, there is magic, only if you... [through laughter] are Vanessa Hudgens.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Playing a variety of characters that Vanessa Hudgens will play. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Uh, but yeah, it is a really weird inclusion, 'cause he's definitely there, but it's so low key that you almost think, like, "Is that... " like, you don't know if it's intentional.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] I had forgotten it was the same guy. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Or if they just needed somebody to play that role and they were like, "You're there. You— you be the cab driver."

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I guess that's true! If Vanessa Hudson can play three characters, why not this guy playing eight? It's fine.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** This guy should get his own series after this. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** No, no, no. No, the follow-up film that I want is— 'cause we've got— now we know that *Christmas Prince* and *Christmas Switch* is the same universe.

**Sydnee:** Yes, 'cause they attended the coronation. [crosstalk]

**Rileigh:** There's a quick moment.

**Sydnee:** There's a quick moment where you see Princess— Christmas Prince and Amber and baby.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Uh, so that means that we've got evil cousin Fiona, and, uh... Loki? I can't remember his name, from *A Christmas Prince*.

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah!

**Rileigh:** Oh yeah! He's also an evil cousin, right?

**Taylor:** Yeah! So I want to see the team up. I wanna see the sort of Avengers-esque assemblage of the evil cousins versus the altruistic royals.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And I— and they get defeated by the Christmas Prince's sister... remember? Who should've been Queen all along, 'cause she was way smarter and, like—

**Taylor:** Oh, that's right, yes.

**Sydnee:** —better at running things.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** By the Christmas Prince's sister, and Kevin's daughter.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Olivia.

**Sydnee:** Olivia.

**Rileigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** The two of them are like, "We're running all of this. We're gonna unite—[laughs] we're gonna unite these countries—"

**Rileigh:** "We're gonna end the war." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "We're gonna make— it's sort of like the EU, but it's whatever... " I don't know what continent they're on. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Their own thing. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Christmas... uh, zum— ism— area?

**Sydnee:** The Christmas Union.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's the CU.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [bursts into laughter]

**Sydnee:** So the Christmas Union will be formed. [laughs] Of Aldovia, Montenegro, and Belgravia.

**Rileigh:** And Belgravia, yes.

**Sydnee:** And all will be well. And meanwhile, the Prime Minister's still like, "[weakly] Guys... could you just—" [crosstalk]

**Rileigh:** All three of the Prime Ministers, I guess.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** They just— they just get together on Christmas and just... hunker down with some nice scotch. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I don't know. "What do you think they're gonna do?"

"I don't know. It'll involve weddings and switches, and there will be Americans. The Americans always show up." [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** All we know for sure... is that we have a threequel to look forward to.

**Taylor:** Aw yeah. *Switchin': Baby Switch*. A lil baby switch-switch. Babies.

**Raleigh:** They do— they make that hint. Stacey Vanessa Hudgens is like, "Royal baby?" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm?

**Raleigh:** And then that's the end of the movie.

**Sydnee:** Um... well. It is just occurring to me—

**Raleigh:** You're next, Syd! What's next?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Uh-oh.

**Raleigh:** Uh-oh!

**Sydnee:** That we did not discuss that.

**Raleigh:** We didn't.

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** What's next?

**Sydnee:** Uh, okay. So, for next week, we're gonna continue our holiday theme, I think, and a movie that is a treasured family film that I think will probably mean a lot to both of you as well is *Christmas Vacation*.

**Taylor:** Ah, yes.

**Raleigh:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** We've watched it every year—

**Raleigh:** Multiple times.

**Sydnee:** —as long as I can remember.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And, uh— so, if you haven't seen it, which maybe you haven't. You know, Justin hadn't seen it until we got married.

**Raleigh:** Really?

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Well... until he became part of our family, I should say. Probably before— we probably made him watch it our first Christmas together.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But, uh, but you should, and if you have, then we'll talk about it next week.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** Exciting.

**Sydnee:** Well, thank you. This has been very enjoyable. I actually have to say, I kind of enjoy those movies.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I do too!

**Raleigh:** They are a safe escape. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** They are.



**Taylor:** [laughs] Only a *little* amount of treason. Just a leetle!

**Raleigh:** Yeah! A little bit.

**Taylor:** Just a little soft kidnapping. Ah, it's lighthearted.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] It's no big deal. It's a lot funnier— the coup was a lot funnier than the one that's been attempted here.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** 'Cause it was fake.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, thank you listeners for joining us. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org if you have questions or suggestions or thoughts or comments. And thank you to the Maximum Fun Network for hosting our show, and you should go to MaximumFun.org and listen to all the other shows. Um, with your— with your intimate, immediate family groups at home. Or remotely, you can listen to them and then discuss them later, over video chat. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** These are great ideas.

**Taylor:** That's very—

**Sydnee:** You can have 'em for free! Uh, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[theme music begins in the background]

**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 Teylor Smirl.

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

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

**Sydnee:** So, like, is she gonna be Queen Stacey, someday?

**Raleigh:** I guess that's for next Christmas. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** And he's gonna be King Kevin?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. King Kevin.

**Sydnee:** King Kevin.

**Taylor:** It's kinda him.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

[music plays]

**Renee:** Well, hello. I'm Renee Colvert.

**Alexis:** Hi, I'm Alexis Preston. And we are the hosts of *Can I Pet Your Dog?*

**Renee:** And we got breaking news, we got an expose, and all the beans have been spilled via an Apple Podcast review that said, "This show isn't well researched."

**Alexis:** [gasps]

**Renee:** Well, yeah, no, duh. Of course, it's not! Not since the day we started has it been well-researched. Guessing and anthropomorphizing dogs is what we do.

**Alexis:** The *Can I Pet Your Dog?* promise is that we will never do more than 10 seconds of research before telling you excitedly about any dog we see.

**Renee:** I'm gonna come at ya with top 10 enthusiasm, minimal facts.

**Alexis:** We're here for a good time, not an educated time.

**Renee:** So, if you love dogs, and you don't love research...

**Alexis:** [laughs]

**Renee:** ...you know what, come on in to *Can I Pet Your Dog?* podcast. Every Tuesday on Maximum Fun Network.

**Alexis:** [giggles]

[music and advertisement end]

[chord]

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