

## Still Buffering 241: The Grinch Off

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[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Sydnee:** I am so qu—

**Rileigh:** Whoa.

**Sydnee:** —what?

**Rileigh:** Comin' in hot. [holding back laughter] Sorry, I just wasn't expecting it! Sorry, go ahead.

**Sydnee:** Wake up!

**Taylor:** You are so something! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I am so overqualified to talk about this week's topic.

**Taylor:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** I didn't wanna launch into it right away, but I'm just so excited.

**Rileigh:** Well, we do have, like, four... things to discuss, right?

**Sydnee:** Yes, that is true. That is true. We have a lot to talk about, so I don't wanna belabor too much. But it is—because it is the holiday season, uh, and I have small children, I am forced to watch—there's just, like—there's only so many holiday things that my children will tolerate, you know?

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** You learn that, like, as you get—when you have kids that get to control the remote.

**Rileigh:** [snorts] Right.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] There are—there are tons. I mean, there are endless holiday films. I'm not saying, like, there's only so many—I mean, like, there's endless, and I could easily just leave, like, Hallmark or Lifetime or even Netflix holiday movies on all day. But my children will only tolerate certain things, and in particular Cooper only watches holiday movies that have the Grinch in them.  
[laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs loudly]

**Rileigh:** Says a lot about Cooper.

**Sydnee:** The first thing she said this morning. "[little kid voice] Can I watch *Grinch Hates Christmas*?" That's what she calls them all.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** *Grinch Hates Christmas*.

**Sydnee:** *Grinch Hates Christmas*.

**Rileigh:** Which is fair!

**Sydnee:** The Grinch does hate—

**Rileigh:** True.

**Sydnee:** —the Grinch does hate Christmas. Uh, we have watched all the Grinches so many times this season.

**Taylor:** Is there one Grinch that holds out? I know we're get into our personal ranking, but I'm just curious. Does Cooper have a pinnacle Grinch?

**Sydnee:** Uh, she will be satisfied with either of the animated versions. Um, she prefers the original.

**Rileigh:** Really?

**Taylor:** Really?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Oh, okay, interesting.

**Sydnee:** Prefers—prefers the original. I would say that is the one that she points at the most, but you can pacify her with the other one if you've watched the original one so many times. Well, because also, though, there's, like, a ver—the version we bought is, like, *The Ultimate*—[laughs] it's called, like, *The Ultimate Grinch Collection* or something?

**Rileigh:** [holding back laughter] Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** And it's the Doc—the original Doctor Seuss animated Grinch with, like, some sort of Grinch and Cat in the Hat thing that happens... after that, or something? But there's something with the Cat in the Hat that comes on after.

**Rileigh:** The Cat in the Hat is part of it. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Wait, there's—

**Sydnee:** [laughs] The Cat in the Hat is part of it.

**Taylor:** —[through laughter] there's a—there's a Cat in the Hat Grinch crossover out there?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes. There's some reason they're together. I don't know. I wasn't really paying attention. When the original Grinch ended I was like, "Now, what is this BS that's happening now? I don't remember any of this." [laughs]

**Taylor:** I was not—I—[stammers] was it—

**Sydnee:** Uh, I—

**Taylor:** —okay.

**Sydnee:** I keep trying to convince them to watch, like—we watched *Rudolph*, and Charlie dug and Cooper was terrified of the Bumble.

**Rileigh:** Okay, that's fair.

**Taylor:** Mmm, yeah.

**Sydnee:** And so we have not been allowed to watch it again. We watched it the one time, and that was it. And then I tried to get them to watch *The Year Without a Santa Claus*.

**Rileigh:** Oh no.

**Sydnee:** And, uh, as I turned it on Charlie went, "What is this called?"

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** 'Cause she can read. And I said, "It's called *The Year Without—*"

*"A Santa Claus?!"*

And I was like, "Yeah?"

And she went, "I don't wanna watch a movie about a year without a Santa Claus!"

And I was like, "Well, no, don't—don't worry. There's—"

**Taylor:** It's not a documentary.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** It gets happy, but—

**Rileigh:** And it was just this one year.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** And I was like, "And it gets happy at the end."

And she was like, "I don't know. I don't know about this," and really uncertain. And then as soon as, like, the Heat Miser and the Snow Miser come on—or Cold Miser, whatever. You know. You know who I'm talking about. As soon as they show up they were both like, "Nope! Nope! Scary! No! Hate it! Turn it off!" [laughs] Like, ran out of the room. And I was like, "Really?" [laughs quietly]

**Riley:** Um, they—

**Sydney:** Are they scary?

**Riley:** They... I—

**Taylor:** Ehh... I think—

**Riley:** —I will s—uh...

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Riley:** Yeah, I could understand it.

**Taylor:** I'm gonna go yes.

**Sydney:** I didn't think they were scar—I—I don't know. Maybe all cartoons were scary when we were kids, [through laughter] so we just accepted that that's part of it?

**Taylor:** I think that sort of—that stop motion animation can be a little disturbing, I think, if—like, we grew up with it, and then we, you know, [through laughter] discovered that there was—there were forms of animation that are not slightly terrifying under the surface.

**Riley:** Yeah. Um, they like Home Alone. Except Charlie calls it *They Left Him Alone*.

**Taylor:** Oh, that's good.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm, *They Left Him Alone*—

**Rileigh:** I think that's very good.

**Sydnee:** —and *They Left Him Alone Again*.

**Rileigh:** [muffled laughter]

**Taylor:** What about, uh—

**Rileigh:** I think that's just a good, succinct, one sentence summary of the plot.

**Sydnee:** What happened? They left him alone.

**Rileigh:** They left him alone. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** What about *The Santa Clause*? Like, the classic Tim Allen movie.

**Sydnee:** [sighs] You know, we have not shown them *The Santa Clause*. And I think maybe, like—and we haven't had a conversation about it. It's not either Justin or I were like, "We can't show them this." But I wonder if we're both just sort of avoiding, like, because of the Tim Allen factor. Like, we're both just quietly like, "[sighs] Do we really want Tim Allen in our home right now?"

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** You know, I have to be honest. When I was young, that movie disturbed me. To me, it kind of felt like a... scary body horror kind of vibe to it. Like, you off Santa, and then you slowly start to morph into somebody else? That's terrifying! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It is an upsetting premise, [through laughter] when you think about that way.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] It's—it scared me! I was like, "I don't like this." If anybody could just be forced to become Santa. Just Cronenbergian transformation. Not about it.

**Sydney:** Uh, they would not watch *Christmas Vacation*.

**Riley:** No.

**Sydney:** I won't belabor that, 'cause we've already talked about it. But, like, they were not feeling that.

**Riley:** Even the animated intro.

**Sydney:** No. None of it.

**Riley:** Couldn't even get into that. Um, but if you weren't aware, this week we are ranking the Grinches. The f—I guess four? The original animated one, the Jim Carrey one, the more recent animated one, and... [holding back laughter] Matthew Morrison's musical Grinch.

**Sydney:** I don't—I don't even think—I mean, we—listen. If we're gonna actually rank them, I don't think we need to, like, wonder where that one's gonna fall. [laughs]

**Riley:** Okay, but I wanna talk about it still! [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah. [sighs heavily]

**Sydney:** Okay. Did you all watch any of the mu—'cause—okay. [laughs]

**Riley:** I could not bring myself to watch the whole thing, but I did watch some of the songs.

**Sydney:** There is... I can't imagine that anyone is not familiar with *The Grinch*. But Dr. Seuss wrote... [laughs quietly]

**Riley:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydney:** ... the Grinch story originally. Uh, which is the Grinch is a mean green guy who lives above a town of Whoville, small people who love Christmas, and he

hates Christmas. And so he tries to steal their Christmas by taking all of their physical items that are related to Christmas. And then the next morning when they wake up and all their presents and food and decorations and whatnot are gone, they sing a song... anyway.

**Rileigh:** They do.

**Sydnee:** Because Christmas doesn't come from a store. Christmas... perhaps... [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** ... is a little bit more.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And then the Crinch—the Grinch realizes that you can't take Christmas, 'cause it's a feeling in your heart, and he gives them back their Christmas, and they all carve their roast beast.

**Rileigh:** And his heart got bigger.

**Sydnee:** And his heart got bigger. And, uh—and the thing is, like—and I'm gonna just go ahead and put this out there.

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] That story is beautiful, and perfect, and doesn't need anything extra shoved into it! We don't need to know more about anybody in it. It's, "Oh, Christmas, it's all about the presents and decorations for you people, isn't it? Well, I'm gonna take 'em all away."

And they're like, "That's okay. That's not what it's about anyway. It's about loving each other and being there for each other, and that's fine."

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** And then he's like, "Aw, that's a great lesson that I've learned, and I've grown as a person, and I'm gonna be a better person moving forward." That's the whole thing. Why does it need more?



**Rileigh:** Sydnee is getting teared up right now, I would like to point out—

**Sydnee:** It's the whole thing!

**Rileigh:** —[holding back laughter] talking about the premise of *The Grinch*!

**Taylor:** But Syd, what about—don't you need, like, a tragic backstory or a lost love interest or... perhaps some higher stakes? Maybe some more developed side characters? Maybe a... was it a yak? Reindeer?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I don't know what it was.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Don't get me wrong. I am all—like, I understand the idea that, like, there are very important stories to be told about how sometimes people are mean because of their past, and things that they've, you know, gone through. And, like, if we give them a chance, maybe we can help them see that, like, the way they're being is not conducive to their happiness or our happiness. And, like, I get that, and I think that those are great stories. That's just not *this* story! [laughs quietly] This story is, "Sometimes people are total jerks. But maybe they'll see the light and not be total jerks. And that's great." And then the Whos welcome him with open arms when he stops being a total jerk! And I think that's okay too. We can have those stories too.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Both are totally valid. [laughs quietly] That's all I'm saying.

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Rileigh:** Um—

**Sydnee:** I think you know where I fall in this.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I can see where you fall in this. My issue with the live action Grinch—not the musical—

**Taylor:** [crosstalk]

**Rileigh:** —we're gonna forget that exists for a few moments.

**Taylor:** Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** We have to talk about it at some, but, like, that's—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] We have to talk about it.

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, I definitely wanna talk about it! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs] Um, is that—I did not need to know—and I first watched this movie when I was much younger. Probably not as young as Charlie or Cooper, but much younger. I did not ever need to know what the Grinch would look like in my real life. [holding back laughter] I did not need to experience—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** —how I would see the Grinch if I met him, like, face-to-face, IRL, not animated. That's a lot for children. Like, the animated Grinch, oh, it's a cute little drawing. Like, okay, he's green, he's supposed to be a little scary, but he's different, that's okay. And, you know, it's fine.

I did not need to see a grown man as the Grinch! It—it was upsetting to me as a child, and I have carried that trauma with me. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I—I do—I will say that, like, both Charlie and Cooper found certain scenes—like when he's trying to be scary early on, like when he's trying to freak out Cindy Lou Who in the post office and stuff, they both found that scene, like, "Ooh." like, "I am upset by the Grinch here. I am scared of the Grinch."

'Cause he does come across as scary and intimidating, I mean, for a little kid.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Not me.

**Rileigh:** Well, now as an adult—

**Sydnee:** I'm a big girl.

**Rileigh:** —yes, I am not scared of the Grinch! [laughs] I was just saying.

**Sydnee:** But yes.

**Taylor:** I—hm. You know, I... I feel like... in, like, reference to the original story, I don't think the Jim Carrey, the live action version, is necessarily doing it the most justice, but I—I love it. It holds a special place in my heart that I can't really understand why. I don't know if it's a combination of the campiness—it's kinda weird, it's a weird movie. [laughs] [through laughter] It's got, like, weird—like, uh, uh, the—the Mary—what—what—the—who is the... the—the lovely lady Who who has it—who has a secret love for the Grinch?

**Sydnee:** Uh, it's Christine Baranski. I don't—

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** —yeah, I don't remember her—I don't remember her name—Ma—Mary—May—May—

**Taylor:** Was it Mary... Mayweather, or something?

**Sydnee:** Mary May? Mary... I... something. Who's at the end. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Mar—Mar—Martha? Martha May?

**Sydnee:** Martha May. That feels right. That feels right.

**Taylor:** Does it feel right?

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Okay, yeah. I don't know. I like it. I think it's—it's just—it's weird, it's campy, um... you know.

**Sydnee:** I—[sighs]

**Taylor:** It gives the Grinch a tragic backstory, it gives you cute baby Grinch who I'm—I don't—sorry, Syd, I think it looks like your youngest child.

**Rileigh:** And oh my gosh, in this—

**Sydnee:** No, that's fair, that's fair.

**Rileigh:** —in this picture of the cast, I was looking at everyone to see their names, and in real life it also looks like... Cooper.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** The actor also looks like Cooper.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, the baby Grinch in the Jim Carrey version does somewhat resemble Cooper and, like—and I will say, Cooper was all about that. Even though this was not her favorite version, when, like, "Oh my God, are you telling me this one has a baby Grinch? And you were holding out on me that there is a baby Grinch I could be looking at and freaking out about?"

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Her and Charlie had a whole conversation about whether baby Grinch and baby Yoda might be related.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** I could see it. I—well—

**Rileigh:** That's—oh, man.

**Teylor:** And that little—that little sequence where they've got—I will say, I think the music is really good in the Jim Carrey Grinch, too. Like, they've got that little song, the “Christmas of Love” song playing, and little Grinch is building that little angel. I don't know. I love that scene. It's such a cute little scene. And, you know, builds in a backstory for the Grinch, which Sydnee does not like backstories apparently.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Teylor:** She does not want any sym—no sympathy for the Grinch, here! I don't wanna know why you suck. I just know you suck! That's it. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** No redemption.

**Sydnee:** I don't—okay, listen. I don't mind that. I don't mind that idea. I think the thing that really bothered me about the Jim Carrey version is what they decided to do to the Whos. 'Cause they made the Whos—

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** —materialistic and, like, it's all about commercialism, and that they miss the point of Christmas, too, and it's all about decorating your house really big and who gets to be the Cheermeister or whatever, and... [laughs quietly] and that the mayor is such a jerk who's, like, making up rules about Whoville and everything. I mean, like, all of that stuff, it undercut the whole point, which was that the Whos were the ones who saw that Christmas could happen, no matter what.

**Rileigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Like, yes, they did all the trappings of Christmas, 'cause it's fun, and we enjoy it. But that doesn't mean we don't get it. Like, we get it. We just—it's also nice to get... some slippers, sometimes.

**Teylor:** [snorts quietly]

**Rileigh:** Psh—okay, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Or whatever. I don't know. Whatever you want for Christmas. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** What do people get for Christmas? [laughs] I'm an alien right now.

**Taylor:** Slippers.

**Sydnee:** What do you humans... do... for presents? [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** I—I don't know. Slippers and—and I guess—

**Rileigh:** Slippers?

**Taylor:** —that's it. Uh...

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Well, yeah, but, I mean, I guess I can understand from a narrative perspective that it is kind of like a moment where—okay. So we—we're really—we love Christmas. We are so invested in all of our decorations, all of our presents. And even in the original Dr. Seuss story, you know, the Whos go all out for Christmas. You wake up Christmas morning, it is all gone, and you're like, "Well. Well, that happens, I guess. Oh well! Let's sing a song! [laughs] Wahoo weyhoo! Okay, it's fine!"

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I don't think it's wahoo weyhoo.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I know that the lyrics—

**Rileigh:** It definitely is!

**Sydnee:** —are unclear, perhaps, but I don't think it's Wahoo weyhoo.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Whatever! I'm just saying, I don't think that's how you'd react. I don't think—I think that the—I think the movie felt like it had to build in a little bit of an explanation for why the Whos decided, "No, no, it's not a—it's okay."  
[laughs]

**Sydney:** Can we agree, though, that part of it, I think, might be that—just like you were talking about with the Grinch, um, in the cartoon and in the book, it's, like, all Dr. Seuss style. Like, this is how Dr. Seuss made things look, and we're familiar with that art. We're familiar with, like, sort of the concept of the Whos as humanoid but not quite huma—you know? Like, all that is fine when you're looking at it in a book or in a cartoon. But as soon as you try to translate the Whos into, like, real people, and you're putting just, like, the—you can tell they've kind of changed their—their face, like, their nose and the area under their nose to resemble the characters from the book and all that. You start to enter this uncanny valley kind of thing where it's like, "What is everyone, and what is the Grinch in relation to that?"

[holding back laughter] And then, because there's so much sexual energy—

**Taylor:** [laughs and chokes]

**Sydney:** —in the Jim Carrey Grinch—

**Riley:** [quietly] Oh no.

**Sydney:** —which is nothing compared to Matthew Morrison—

**Riley:** Oh no. No.

**Taylor:** That is the only aspect that they managed to take from the Jim Carrey Grinch and pull into the musical. 'Cause yeah, that part is a little—I'm—I'm not—I don't love it. I do—I do love Martha May, though. I love her costuming, I love that she's the one Who that has her real nose. Like, if you notice all the other Whos have the prosthetic and she has her regular nose. Uh, I was looking at some of the—like, the Wikipedia or something that suggested that it's been suggested that she had a nose job, and that's [through laughter] why she's a Who with a different nose!

**Sydney:** Aw!

**Taylor:** But I just—I love her, and I know I'm not alone in this, because I feel like I've seen every, like, drag performer I follow do a riff on Martha May Who [through laughter] in the last, like, year or two.

**Riley:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** Well, and I mean, to be fair, like, it's Christine Baranski.

**Riley:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** And she is fabulous, and I love her in everything. If you haven't seen Dolly Parton's *Christmas on the Square*, please. It's Dolly Parton and Christine Baranski. Dolly Parton's an angel. She floats on a cloud. What are you even doing if you haven't seen this?

**Taylor:** Oh, wow.

**Sydney:** Just saying. [laughs] But, I mean, I'll watch Christine Baranski in anything and enjoy her. She's great. Um, but it's like—I think because for me *The Grinch* was such a childhood thing, and I think there are aspects of this movie—like, it kind of makes sense to me that maybe more adults find this movie appealing, because the humor is—it's a little cruder, it's a little—there is that sort of sex... kind of thing that's happening.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydney:** Like—like the Grinch is—

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Sex thing!

**Sydney:** —into Martha May. And Martha May is very clearly like—it's not like she fell in love with the Grinch. She is *in*—like, she's feelin' the Grinch.

**Riley:** She is *into* the Grinch.

**Taylor:** Yeah.



**Sydnee:** Yes, like, she's feelin' it. I mean, that's the energy there. It's a very—  
[laughs] it's a lust that is happening.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It's a little uncomfy.

**Sydnee:** And then they have the key party?

**Rileigh:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** There's the scene where they're all having—like, the Whos are all having a key party and that's when the Grinch shows up is during their key party. Like, all of that I don't have any problem with, but I think because for me it's a kid thing it's like, "Well, this is not a... this is not a kid thing." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "This is something else entirely!" And it's fine! It's just something else.

**Rileigh:** It's fine! Yes.

**Taylor:** But I do—I—I—I mean, we talked about—I forget what previous Jim Carrey exploit we talked about on this podcast, but I know—you know, I think people come down very strongly one way or the other when Jim Carrey is concerned. Either you love him or you just don't particularly get his—his thing. And I fall into the I absolutely love him camp. I love Jim Carrey. I love how just over—overact—overblown he does every character, and this is definitely an example of Jim Carrey just being the most Jim Carrey. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** But there are a couple of jokes that I just think—like, they make me laugh every time. Like, when the—'cause in the original Dr. Seuss poem, you know, it uses the word "slonk." Like, he slonked. [laughs] And Jim Carrey goes, "Slonk." [laughs] Just, like, says that as he moves. [laughs] And there's, like, something—like, he laughs in his throat and he goes, "[grunts?]" [laughs] Like, in the back of his throat.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** It's just like—like every time I see that movie, those moments just crack me up. It's, like, such good just, you know, visible, like, humor.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** They are. I mean, there are moments like that, and I'm not—I'm not, like, a... I would not—I don't know. I don't think I'm in that love or hate Jim Carrey kind of thing. When he's at his peak Jim Carrey, that's not really my taste. Like... I have seen all the requisite films in the Jim Carrey canon exactly one time and went, "Okay. [laughs quietly] I understand that that is that now. I shall never see that again."

Um, but then, like, I watched *The Truman Show* more than once, so I'm one of those... you know. [holding back laughter] I'm one of those fans.

**Rileigh:** One of those.

**Taylor:** Ohh.

**Sydnee:** You know who I am! I think I've just defined myself for everyone. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Sure.

**Taylor:** You like Jim Carrey when he decided to do serious stuff. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I did. I—I did. I liked more that. I can only—I saw *Ace Ventura*. [pause] That was fine. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I know somewhere Justin's going, "[gasps loudly]"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "What is my wife doing?! I can sense my wife is saying something very upsetting to me! I can feel it!"

Uh, we still haven't talked about the other animated Grinch, and we haven't talked about Matthew Morrison enough.

**Rileigh:** Oh, man.

**Sydnee:** But before we do that...

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

Um, first off this week in the group message, I'm gonna tell you all about something that is helping us still feel close throughout this different kind of year, and different kind of holiday season.

**Sydnee:** Thank goodness. We need something. [snorts]

**Rileigh:** Yes. Um, you know, the holidays look different this year for lots of us. Um, whether that means you're staying home or maybe, you know, your plans are different, your party plans, um, people you will see, won't see, all that kind of thing.

But even though family and friend reunions might not be the same, that shouldn't stop us from feeling close to each other. So that's why you should give your family a chance to tell their story and share their memories with you using StoryWorth. Um, StoryWorth is an online service that helps your loved ones share stories through thought-provoking questions about their memories and personal thoughts. I know that, uh, our dad has been sending me many of these prompts, um, using his own StoryWorth, and I get lots of different questions about, like, what's a small decision you made that ended up having a big impact on your life? Tell me about one high school memory, or maybe your favorite teacher you've ever had? Something like that that you just tell a quick little story, you share it, you write it down.

Something that makes you think about a good memory that maybe you haven't shared with your family before. Um, and you get one of those every single week, uh, and after one year, StoryWorth will compile all of those stories, including photos, into a beautiful keepsake book that is shipped for free, which is just so nice that, you know, they ask you to do these questions that you've probably never asked your family before, you've never thought to talk about before. You get to write 'em down, and at the end of all of it you get 'em all in this beautiful book with any pictures you thought to add, like a little storybook/photo album full

of just all these different kinds of memories, um, which is perfect for this—this different year, and this time of year.

So, Tey, if our listeners want to check out StoryWorth, what should they do?

**Taylor:** You can give your loved ones the gift of spending time together wherever you live with StoryWorth. Get started right away with no shipping required by going to [StoryWorth.com/stillbuffering](https://StoryWorth.com/stillbuffering). You'll get 10 dollars off your first purchase! That's [StoryWorth.com/stillbuffering](https://StoryWorth.com/stillbuffering) for 10 dollars off.

**Sydnee:** So, I love to cook, um, but I will be the first to admit that I don't have a wide array of, like, recipes I know, um, or exactly how to go about cooking things the right way, like what pairs well together. Um, I always need help with that, with new creative ideas. And then I hate having a bunch of waste leftover. Like, you're gonna make a new recipe, so you buy a whole big bunch of some herb or something, and then use one little bit of it, and what do you do with the rest?

Um, for these reasons, I love HelloFresh, America's number one meal kit. You get exactly what you need delivered right to your door. The ingredients are all pre-measured so you don't have a bunch of extra stuff leftover that you're wasting or don't know what to do with. Um, and the recipes are right there. Easy to follow steps, anybody can do it. Uh, and you can cook something maybe that you've never tried before, like a new twist on something. Uh, it saves you a trip to the grocery store, it makes it easy and fun to cook at home. Uh, the thing that I love is you can do this with your kids if you have kids.

Charlie is really interested in cooking. Not so much Cooper. She's a little young. But Charlie is, and she can help me follow the instructions that HelloFresh provides, um, and try a new food also, which is always hard with kids, but if you can get 'em involved in cooking something and they see how it's all put together, sometimes you can get 'em to try something new, uh, and expand their palate a little bit.

Uh, there's something that everybody enjoys. They're all, um, easy to make, and some of them are 20 minutes only. Uh, there are vegetarian options, there's recipes that are a little more kid-friendly if you do want to include your children, like I do. Um, and like I said, they're simple, easy recipes to follow with pictures and—I mean, you can't go wrong.

HelloFresh has been a revolution in this household, and I think it would be in yours, too. So, if our listeners want to check out HelloFresh, Teylor, what should they do?

**Teylor:** Uh, they should go to [hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering](https://hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering) and use code "80stillbuffering," that's 8-0, to get 80 dollars off, including free shipping! That's [hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering](https://hellofresh.com/80stillbuffering) and code "80stillbuffering" for 80 dollars off.

**Sydnee:** Now, our last item of business before we return to Grinch talk is we have a Jumbotron, and it is for us!

**Rileigh:** Aww.

**Sydnee:** I know!

**Rileigh:** How nice.

**Sydnee:** It's so nice! Uh, this is for the three of us, and it is from Andy Sage, who we were lucky enough to meet back at PodCon 2. Oh, remember those days?

**Teylor:** Aww.

**Sydnee:** Cons?

**Rileigh:** When we could all be in the same place?

**Sydnee:** We could all be together?

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Can you imagine that now?

**Sydnee:** Crowds.

**Rileigh:** Being in, like, one of those big—

**Sydnee:** Nope.

**Rileigh:** —convention halls with, like, crowds of people just all close? It's wild.

**Sydnee:** Ugh.

**Rileigh:** Wild.

**Sydnee:** But we were lucky enough to meet Andy back when we could all—in the Before Times when we could all be together. And I will read my message, and then you can each read yours. Um, "Thank you for being a doctor in 2020, for important truths on Sawbones, and your goofy voice during jokes."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "You are amazing." [laughs quietly] Thank you. Go ahead, Tey, you're next.

**Taylor:** Alright. Uh, well, mine says, "Thank you for good taste in fandoms." I hope that still holds up after I just went so hard for Jim Carrey. Uh—

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** "Great art, and being a nonbinary icon. I look up to you. You're wonderful!" Aw, thank you! Thank you so much, Andy!

**Sydnee:** Aww.

**Rileigh:** Uh, mine says, "Thank you for this podcast, your funny and difficult stories, and giving us hope for Gen Z. You are the world's best little sister." Thank you, Andy. That was so sweet. And, uh, Andy says to all of us, "Have a lovely 2021."

**Sydnee:** Andy, this was very kind of you.

**Rileigh:** Thank you so much.

**Taylor:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** Thank you, thank you. I hope you also have a lovely 2021. Um... that it is better for all of us. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yes. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Perhaps.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Than 2020. And that you have a wonderful holiday season. So thank you.

**Rileigh:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** Uh, now we're gonna talk about Matthew Morrison as the Grinch.

**Rileigh:** Noo!

**Taylor:** Noo!

**Rileigh:** I am not exaggerating. This is not a goof. This is not a bit. Last night, I got in bed and I was like, "Okay, I cannot bring myself to watch this whole musical. It's, like, two hours long. I'm gonna watch some of the musical numbers. I'm gonna go to YouTube, I'm gonna find some of these musical numbers and watch those, so I can have an understanding of Matthew Morrison's Grinch, and this Grinch musical," 'cause this is also, like, not just another iteration. It is, like, a full different version.

**Taylor:** I—

**Rileigh:** I had nightmares last night.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** About Matthew Morrison Grinch, because I watched it right before bed, and I just could not stop thinking about doing rehearsals for a show, and him just showing up in that costume.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And it scared me!

**Taylor:** That is—Raleigh, I didn't know we were allowed to cheat and not have to watch the whole thing.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I—I'd already watched—I'd rewatched everything else. Um, I had never seen this before, so I started watching it very late last night, remembering that we had to do this today. [laughs] And I fell asleep watching it as well, and then woke up today at 8 AM to try to watch the rest of it that I failed to—

**Sydney:** Oh, man.

**Taylor:** —to—to see, and it was... hauntingly difficult to get through. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** What a way to bookend your sleep like that.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Right?! Like, it's like, "Oh no!"

**Sydney:** Why—just—okay.

**Taylor:** I went to bed to him, and then I wake up and it's more of him!

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydney:** I understand the impulse. Like, we're all familiar with *Seussical*.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** And I know there are people who there who are detractors, but I think *Seussical* is—

**Raleigh:** Every community theater in this country has done *Seussical*.

**Sydney:** Has done *Seussical*. And I think *Seussical* is lovely. I think there are some lovely songs. I think the story is lovely. I think it's adorable for community theaters to do and for kids to do, so I'm a huge defender of *Seussical*, so I can see where you would look at that and go, "A Grinch musical. Holiday-themed musical. This'll be fun." [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** They did it with *Elf*.



**Sydnee:** "I—this'll be great!" I can see where you were coming from.  
[emphatically] What happened? What *happened*?

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** What... why—why? The mu—there is not—

**Rileigh:** The music's not—that's the hard part, is I can't even get behind the music. Like, there's nothing for me to hold on to.

**Sydnee:** The only bangers are the songs that aren't from this, that are from other things.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like they drop in [laughs] uh, "Where Are You Christmas?" from the Jim Carrey Grinch. 'Cause they're like, "Well, people liked that one." And then the, uh—"You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" gets up in there, 'cause...

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's classic. And I think maybe, uh, a little bit of the Wahoo Weyhoo—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] —gets in there.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [singing] "Wahoo, weyhoo."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I think maybe that theme shows up occasionally. But, like, everything else, what is happening?

**Taylor:** I—and it's, like—it's not even nice to look at. Like—

**Sydnee:** No!

**Rileigh:** No.

**Taylor:** —and I don't wanna insult anybody that worked on this. I don't know if it was rushed or what, but, like, I love—like, the set design, taking itself from, like, the stylings of Dr. Seuss is pretty cool, but it's also—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I like that idea.

**Taylor:** Yeah, but it's very stark. It's very, like—like, his colors are very bright, and they keep this set really kind of, like—like, black and white. Which is weird, because then the Whos are all, like, Day-Glo. They are so brightly colored, and there are so many poorly styled wigs! And I was like, "Agh, I can't even look at it!" This is ignoring the Grinch [laughs] completely.

**Rileigh:** I—yeah. I think the worst part of it for me—which I think—I want to understand the decision to cast Matthew Morrison in this, in this time, where TikTok and Gen Z particularly has decided that as a collective we do not like [through laughter] Matthew Morrison.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, and—

**Rileigh:** And it is just—like, knowing all this, how is he your f—I—I'm sorry. I just...

**Sydnee:** And here's the thing. If you're gonna do that—'cause, like, the reason that we all feel that way is because we all watched *Glee* when we were younger and went, "I love mashups!"

And then we got older and went, "This show has problems." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah! We loved the cool choir teacher. We were like, "Oh, so cool! He can sing and dance, and I want that!"

**Sydnee:** And as, like, a former show choir kid, it was nice to be like, "Yeah, look. We were—[laughs quietly] we were great. [laughs] Weren't we? Look how cool. I bet you wish *you* were in show choir now, huh? Huh?! Captain of the football team, cheerleader, prom queen? I bet you wish you were in the show choir like me!"

But they don't.

**Rileigh:** Then you look back at some of the interactions Mr. Schuester had with his students.

**Sydnee:** And you're like, "Ooh. Ooh! Oh, okay. Actually, there were lots of problems with this, actually."

And I think Matthew Morrison got pinned with a lot of that, which isn't fair in the sense that, like, he was playing a character, it was written the way it was written, you know. I mean, he's talented. I'm not gonna sit here and pretend like he can't sing and dance. Obviously he—

**Rileigh:** He came from Broadway.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, he's very talented. But this was his chance, maybe. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Maybe this was his chance to show us, like, "Hey, that whole Will Schuester thing, it—it ain't me! I'm something else!"

**Rileigh:** "This is me." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Here's who I am. I'm the Grinch!" But nope! Nope! It was still Will Schuester, only green!

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] It was!

**Taylor:** And he's just like every—you know, the thing—say what you will about the weird Martha May Who sexual tension in the Jim Carrey Grinch, Jim Carrey's Grinch is not attempting to be sexy in any way.

**Sydnee:** No. No.

**Taylor:** Like, that's all coming from her character. It's not anything that he's acting out. But this Grinch... this Grinch in every line is like—just, like, sultry vocal fry, and I am uncomfortable. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's so... it's such a weird way to go with the Grinch.

**Taylor:** [laughs] [through laughter] It is a swerve!

**Rileigh:** It somehow—what makes it worse is that they didn't do—I'm looking at a close up picture of him in his costume. They didn't do the Grinch prosthetics.

**Sydnee:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** They just, like, painted his face green and did some various, like, shading and stuff with the green makeup. Um, which I don't like, because then I'm just looking at Matthew Morrison, but green. I need to see the Grinch. I don't wanna see a green William Schuester.

**Taylor:** And it's like—I feel like with, like, the swooshed back hair and the lack of prosthetics, they were—I kept looking at him like, "Did they try to make him hot? Did they try—"

**Rileigh:** [bursts into laughter]

**Taylor:** "—to make him kinda hot?" [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [crosstalk] defined his jawline and his cheekbones.

**Sydnee:** I feel like—yeah, I feel like they did. Like, the hair thing is what caught me. I was watching it, and as we started watching it I was trying to figure out, like, what about this is making me so uncomfortable?

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Why am I so uncomfortable? Um, what is happening here?" And the hair is when it hit me. It's the way he, like, kinda tosses his hair. And I was like,

"Oh, that's supposed to be, like, sexy. Oh no! Is this supposed to be sexy?!" Like, I am reading—I'm not, like, turned on, but I am getting those signals from this. Like, "Aren't you? Aren't you feelin' it?"

And it's like, "No! Nooo! [laughs] I'm not!"

**Rileigh:** "I am not." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like at one point he kind of—

**Sydnee:** "I'm super not!"

**Taylor:** —he kind of plays with his hair and, like, twists it around on his fingers. And I'm just like, "No. The Grinch is trying to seduce the audience, and the audience I guarantee is not welcoming this." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, because it gives a really weird energy to the casting of his dog Max.

**Taylor:** Ohh! Oh, how did I for—I blocked it out! I blocked out the weird man dog! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Like—

**Rileigh:** [groans]

**Sydnee:** —who—okay. So, his—what's that—

**Rileigh:** I found a picture!

**Sydnee:** —what's that actor's name? 'Cause he's from *Descendants*.

**Rileigh:** Yes, he is.

**Sydnee:** Right? Like, that—

**Rileigh:** He was also in *Twilight*.

**Sydnee:** There's my—[laughs quietly] there's my reference point. From Di—

**Rileigh:** Booboo Stewart.

**Sydnee:** Booboo Stewart. So he's from—like, I refer—I recognized him from Disney's *Descendants*, which by the way—

**Rileigh:** Great film.

**Sydnee:** —great film. All—like, all of 'em. Fantastic. Love *Descendants*. And he's great in that. He's also great in that. I love him in *Descendants*.

Um, and he's very talented, again, and he is trying so hard to make this whole, like, "I am an adult man dressed as a dog" thing work. Um, but then when, like, he's pulling the sled and, like, Matthew Morrison Grinch is kind of, like—

**Rileigh:** Nope! Nope!

**Sydnee:** —like, over—like, whipping him?

**Rileigh:** [yells]

**Sydnee:** As he's pulling the sled? Like, with the—I—I just don't—like, the whole thing is, like, what—who looked at that and went, "Mm-hmm, good." [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "This is what we want."

**Taylor:** And we get, like, the backstory of the—of—of Max the Dog?

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] Yes!

**Taylor:** Like, we get a little puppy version of him, which is just so—the whole framing of this, with the dog as the narrator—that's the thing. The dog [through laughter] is the narrator of this version of *The Grinch*! And it's like—so you get three different life stages of the weird man-dog presented in this musical.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** I—[stammers]—the kid was cute. All the other ones made me also uncomfortable. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I also—I—every picture—I'm just trying to—every picture I find of him, his face makes me uncomfortable. Matthew Morrison, not Max the Dog. Um, something about Matthew Morrison's Grinch makes it 100 times worse that the Grinch does not wear pants.

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** Like, Jim—[laughs] Jim Carrey—I forget—did he even wear clothes? Jim Carrey Grinch?

**Taylor:** Uh...

**Sydnee:** Uh... yeah, he wears the, um—

**Rileigh:** The vest?

**Sydnee:** —the lederhosen.

**Rileigh:** Okay, okay.

**Taylor:** Sometimes, yeah, but he's—

**Rileigh:** Well, not the whole time.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, yes. That's when he's getting dressed. Okay, that is weird, because that's when he's getting dressed up. He's like—

**Rileigh:** Oh, you're right!

**Sydnee:** —"I've gotta go be the Cheermeister. I better get dressed up." Which to the Grinch means "I better put clothing on."

**Rileigh:** Put on clothes. But there's something about naked Jim Carrey Grinch that does not disturb me. It doesn't bother me. It doesn't look like—it's like when you're watching, like, Mickey Mouse or something, right? And it's like, Donald's not wearing pants, but it doesn't bother me.

**Sydnee:** [muffled laughter]

**Rleigh:** That doesn't bother me. But looking at this picture of Matthew Morrison, because he just looks like a man, just wearing a vest and a scarf with no pants, with knee-high socks, something about it makes me so uncomfortable! I need him to put on pants!

**Taylor:** I think—well, because, you know, like, the Jim Carrey Grinch is very much like a monster-looking—like, it's—it's like Chewbacca. Like, nobody thinks about why Chewbacca doesn't wear pants, because he's a big, hairy monster. That's sort of the feeling you get from Jim Carrey. But this Grinch is very—it's like, yes, he's got—he's furry, but it's just, like, a very smooth fabric. It's just like [through laughter] sort of like—[laughs] like a velour or something? It's very smooth [through laughter] is what I'm saying!

**Sydnee:** And the vest does introduce, like, that question. Because he does have the vest on.

**Rleigh:** He does have the vest on.

**Sydnee:** The vest is apro—and here's another—that's another thing. Like, I see that vest and I think, "William Schuester."

**Rleigh:** Yeah! 'Cause he just wears vests!

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] [unintelligible]

**Rleigh:** What—oh my God! I hadn't even thought about that! Why did they do that?!

**Sydnee:** Why'd they put a vest on him?

**Rleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** When you don't have the vest, the question of pants does not need to be asked. But once you put the vest on, the question of pants must be asked, and there is no answer.

**Rleigh:** [laughs breathlessly]



**Sydnee:** Why have you done this? [pause] I don't understand... there were just so many things I didn't understand watching—and, like, the sad thing is, as a parent, you watch something like this and you think, "I have now let my child watch this. And my child is guaranteed to love it, inexplicably, and so I have cursed myself with watching it [laughs quietly] repeatedly."

**Taylor:** I mean—

**Sydnee:** Although they did—

**Taylor:** Oh, go ahead.

**Sydnee:** —they didn't love it, I will say. They did not—they liked it. They definitely thought it was fun and cool, but they did not love it like they love the other Grinches.

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, I don't think, like—you know, I felt kind of—I feel bad any time we are not nice to a piece of media, but I will say that I think this will be something that people will watch. Like...

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** You know. I think, like, this will be a funny holiday tradition for a lot of people, because it is... I don't—I don't know if it qualifies as good bad. I love good bad, things that are just so bad that they come back around to good again. It might get there, maybe if I wasn't watching it, like, late at night, just wanting to sleep, but being forced to watch the—the—the smooth [through laughter] nether regions of the Grinch! I would've been doin' okay. But I don't know. It could get there, so, you know. I'm sure it'll be enjoyed. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And there are other actors that are, I mean, like, putting in performances. Like, the Whos as a whole are super good. I mean, there are some really talented people in there. I do think that, like—like you said, I think the idea of putting it against the sort of, like, Dr. Seuss drawings as a set and that kind of thing I think is a cool idea. I think the colors got weird, like you said. Like, all the technicolor against the black and—I don't know. It didn't translate for me. But, like, there were some cool ideas. I just don't know how I have—I can't watch Mr. Schuester... like that. I just can't Mr. Schuester do the Grinch.

**Rileigh:** I am realizing now, uh, when he takes off the vest, he has—at every point in the show, he is wearing some sort of top. He wears the Santa jacket, he wears the other—the other jacket, the green one—

**Sydnee:** Which is like a blazer, too. It's like a Santa blazer.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** It just, like, has one button in the middle and it skirts out at the bottom and has, like, a really deep V at the top. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like, why did he have to wear a Santa blazer?

**Rileigh:** Uh, so again, I need him to wear pants. That is my biggest problem now that I realized he needs to wear pants.

**Taylor:** That's got—I don't—I don't—you know what? I—I—like, I don't—that's gotta be an essential step of any monster or costume design now that I think of it. Like, is this monstrous enough that it can forgo pants? It's like a different kind of [through laughter] uncanny valley!

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [laughs] It's like—[unintelligible]

**Sydnee:** Would the idea of genitals be considered with this creature, or no?

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** [crosstalk] far enough away.

**Rileigh:** You know, I think if anyone else—[laughs breathlessly] if anyone else had been in this costume, I would not have had this issue.

**Taylor:** [laughs loudly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs loudly]

**Taylor:** And nobody wants to have that thought!

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Oh, no... ohh...

**Taylor:** This is uncomfortable, and I apologize.

**Rileigh:** So, I think—I think we can all agree is last.

**Sydnee:** I've—

**Taylor:** Ohh.

**Rileigh:** Um...

**Sydnee:** Uh... so, okay. Just briefly, it should have been sexy to hear Benedict Cumberbatch, I guess, be a Grinch.

**Taylor:** Ah, yes.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** But it is not.

**Rileigh:** No, I couldn't even tell it was him.

**Sydnee:** I couldn't either. It shocked me that it was him.

**Taylor:** Well, I am actually grateful that it is not trying to be. This Grinch is not trying to be sexy, 'cause this is distinctly—we're talking about the 2018 animated movie. Definitely for kids. Definitely a kids movie, here.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** And a—a just—just wonderfully nonsexual Grinch here. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Yes. Something I never thought I could talk about.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Uh, I—maybe this is a hot take. I rewatched all three of those full length; the original animation, this animation, and Jim Carrey. Um, I kinda preferred the new one.

**Sydnee:** I—I get it. I mean, you get some Grinch backstory, right? Like, so again, I know you guys need that. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Right. I need it.

**Sydnee:** You need to know why the Grinch is so bad. You get that.

**Rileigh:** I need exposition.

**Sydnee:** You get that story. Um, I still think, like, the Whos are generally good, kind people, you know. They're not... monstrous, like they are in the live action. Um, and I think that, uh, the Grinch is what you need him to be. He's sufficiently, like, Grinchy. There's no sex. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs] God.

**Sydnee:** He's just—he's just mean and grouchy, and kinda funny. Kinda, like, irritated by kids in kind of a funny way, um, that I think is—I can get on board with. And I like the whole subplot where, like, Cindy Lou Who is just trying to do something nice for her mom 'cause her mom works so hard and is underappreciated. That really resonated with me. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Well, I also just—I love the *Lorax* film so much, um, and like you said, Tey, this is, like, by the same people. Um, same style. And it is very reminiscent of that movie. Just, like, that good balance of the grumpy monster—quote, unquote, "monster" character. But then it all, you know... it all turns out lovely. I like that a lot.

**Taylor:** No, it's a really—I have to—I mean, it's hard for me to say that it's necessarily better than the original animated one, because that is classic. But I do kind of agree with you here, Rileigh, 'cause I think it—I get why the simplicity of the first story works so well, but I also do think the lesson of, like, there's usually a reason why grouchy people are grouchy is a good lesson for kids to kind of understand. That, you know, that that's—that he's not just mean for the sake of

being mean. He's got this sadness, and that's why he feels this way. And you see him be kind to, like, his dog, and he's kind to the reindeer family, you know?

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Um, just a random character insertion. We just needed more cute animals, which I'm always here for. Uh... so yeah, I like the way that it fills out the story a bit more, 'cause it still keeps it very sweet. It doesn't feel the need to go into, like, the places that the Jim Carrey one did to get content. It keeps it very sweet and lighthearted. It just kind of fills out the world a bit more.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I don't—I have no problems with the updated animated one, and I can get why, like, especially the style of animation and everything I feel like maybe—will be the one that my kids want to watch moving forward, and that's okay with me. Um, I can live with that. I will always force them to watch the original. It's—it's really short.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It is.

**Sydnee:** It's an easy, quick watch. Um, I will always force them to watch the original at some point but, uh—but I can live with the updated animated one in a way that I don't know that I can live with the Jim Carrey one every Christmas.

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** I will watch it if they want to. I'm... a good parent. But...

**Raleigh:** What if they tell you they want to watch Matthew Morrison every Christmas?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I would never—I will never be the kind of parent to, like, ban things in this household—

**Raleigh:** I would ban that.

**Sydnee:** I don't—[laughs] I—I—I'm gonna have to have a conversation. I think that's important. I don't ban anything, but we are gonna have to have a conversation about context. Why? Why, Charlie? Why do you find this appealing? Let's get into that. I just need to understand. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** I will accept, but I must understand. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I must understand what has happened here.

**Rileigh:** I get it.

**Taylor:** Oh, man.

**Sydnee:** [sighs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I didn't know that the Grinch had so much sex.

[pause]

**Rileigh:** It shouldn't

**Taylor:** It—no—no—no. Well, the internet... I don't—the internet likes that the Grinch is sexy, I think. I think there's a portion of the internet that likes sexy Grinch, and maybe they saw that and they were like, "Let's cater to the part of the internet that likes sexy Grinch."

And you know what? That's great for—for [through laughter] the part of the internet that likes sexy Grinch!

**Rileigh:** And if you like sexy Grinch, that's fine.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** I just...

**Sydnee:** I have no problem with that. I have no problem with people who, uh, you know... like the Grinch that way. Like like. Not like, but, like, like like, like that?

**Rileigh:** Are into the Grinch that way.

**Sydnee:** Like like the Grinch. I have no problem with that. I think for me the Grinch is like a childhood thing is, like—so I—it was never, like, on the table.  
[laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Sure.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] So—so I don't think about it that way, but I don't care. You can like like the Grinch. Even people who like like the Grinch, though... probably not Matthew Morrison Grinch.

**Rileigh:** Oh no.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Still probably not... I mean, if that's your cup of tea, that's totally fine, but I'm betting that's not, like, super... popular.

**Rileigh:** I can't stop thinking about the vest and feeling like it was intentional. I just can't. I can't get it out of my head.

**Sydnee:** [muffled laughter]

**Taylor:** If they just hadn't made him such that smooth fur. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Ugh. Ughhh!

**Sydnee:** What's next? What's next?

**Taylor:** [laughs] Oh, is that it?

**Sydnee:** Whose turn is it?

**Taylor:** [through laughter] You've just ended the conversation! Well, I think we need to give a ranking, here. I think that was part of the premise.

**Sydnee:** Okay. Let's give a ranking, and while we give a ranking, whose turn is it next to—

**Taylor:** Well, this was technically my choice. Sorry! I didn't know when I said this that this is what we were going to be discussing more often than not.

**Sydnee:** Uh, okay. Rileigh's gonna—Rileigh's gonna come up with something really quick. I think we can all agree Matthew Morrison Grinch is at the bottom.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Um—

**Rileigh:** Plot twist: my number one. Just kidding. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Uh, I mean for me, the original is number one for me, but I feel like for you two it might be different.

**Rileigh:** Well, I feel like for Tey Jim Carrey Grinch is number one, but for me I feel like the 2018 Benedict Cumberbatch Grinch might be my number one.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I think for, like... I love Dr. Seuss and I definitely respect the original, and I love it, but I think for my sheer entertainment value, I like the Jim Carrey Grinch the most. And then probably—I don't know. I kinda... I like the 2018 animated one more. I hate to put the original one third, I don't think that's fair. I feel like they're all number one, and they're all good, except for the musical, and that's bad. [through laughter] That's how I feel!

**Rileigh:** That's what I was gonna say. It seems like we've all agreed there is a three way tie for first, and then a fourth.

**Sydnee:** And then a distant, distant, distant... fourth.

**Taylor:** Yeah.



**Sydnee:** Or maybe, you know, I'll just throw in there that, um... I prefer the book, so...

**Rileigh:** Ughh!

**Sydnee:** I guess I'm more of, like, a—like, a reader, you know?

**Taylor:** [quietly] Oh my God.

**Sydnee:** I just, uh... I don't need a TV all the time—

**Rileigh:** [holding back laughter] I don't want you on this podcast anymore!

**Taylor:** O—okay. Okay.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I have thought about it, and it is not, um, holiday—we will be in the last day of 2020 when our next episode goes up.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** Which is a lot to think about.

**Taylor:** Woo hoo!

**Rileigh:** Um, but I think this is something the internet has been talking about all recently, and I have only been talking about recently. All I can talk about. Taylor Swift put out *another* new album this year.

**Sydnee:** Ohh, yes.

**Rileigh:** And we talked about the one she put out in July, *Folklore*. Uh, she surprise put out another album this year two weeks ago called—or a week ago? I don't remember—called *Evermore*. And I think it is even better.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** So, many people have asked me to discuss it on the podcast and force you all to listen to it as well, so that's what we're gonna do.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** I will do it. I haven't heard anything from it, so I'm excited to—

**Riley:** How exciting.

**Sydnee:** —see what's on 'em. Alright! Well, thank you both. This, uh—this Grinch-off has been fun.

**Taylor:** [through laughter]

**Riley:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Fun and disturbing.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** And upsetting.

**Taylor:** But I do—I do want to emphasize, if you like the musical, if you or someone you love worked on the musical... we are sorry, and it is totally a matter of taste and opinion, and everybody's allowed that. You know, this is just how we feel.

**Riley:** Unless you are Matthew Morrison.

**Taylor:** Yeah, well—[bursts into laughter] I'm not worried about hurting his feelings. [laughs]

**Riley:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I mean, my kids enjoyed it.

**Riley:** [sighs] Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And, like, if you're talking about musicals that are based on sort of, like, material that was meant for kids and then, like, have the kind of colors and music and, like, jokes and stuff that are aimed at children, it landed. I mean, it totally was a success. It wasn't—I don't think it was for us, necessarily. So...

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I'm not gonna—you know.

**Rileigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** Everything's not for everybody, and that's okay.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Uh—[laughs quietly] all Grinches are welcome here. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yes. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to [Maximumfun.org](https://Maximumfun.org) and listen to lots of wonderful podcasts throughout this holiday season, and the end of 2020. Um, you can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org), and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[theme music begins in the background]

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

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

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

**Rileigh:** I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

**Together:** [singing] Wahoo, weyhoo, wahoo—

**Taylor:** [singing] —heehoo, hah—

**Sydney:** [singing] Hooha, heeha, hoo.

**Riley:** [laughs] That was great.

**Taylor:** [singing] Christmas.

[all laugh]

[music plays]

**Jo:** Hi! I'm Jo Firestone.

**Manolo:** And I'm Manolo Moreno.

**Jo:** And we host *Dr. Gameshow*, a podcast where listeners submit games, and we play them, regardless of quality, with a dozen listeners from around the world.

**Manolo:** We've had folks call in from as far as Sweden, South Africa, and The Philippines.

**Jo:** Here's an example: this is a game we called Zoo-ey Deschanel, where you turn a celebrity's name into an animal pun. You have an example, Manolo?

**Manolo:** Brad Gorilla Pitt.

**Jo:** Oh, that's a pun on gorilla pits?

**Manolo:** Yep.

**Jo:** [hesitantly] I don't know if that's—

**Manolo:** It's Brad Pitt.

**Jo:** Oh, okay.

**Manolo:** That's the high quality game—

**Jo:** Yep!

**Manolo:** —that you can expect.

**Jo:** *Dr. Gameshow* has new episodes every other Wednesday on Maximum Fun.

**Manolo:** Check us out, please!

[music and advertisement end]

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