

Still Buffering 243: "Schitt's Creek" (2015-2020)

Published January 10th, 2021

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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: Phew!

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: So...

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yep.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: How's everybody doin'?

Taylor: I mean, there's not an armed insurrection *today*, so... better?

Raleigh: That was yesterday. [laughs]

Sydnee: That was yesterday. So, full disclosure, we were supposed to record this episode yesterday.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: And, um—

Raleigh: About, eh, two hours before we were supposed to record... everything started— you know.

Sydnee: I think, uh, like most of the country and the world, um, we became quite, um... I don't know. Locked on to the horrible events of the day, and were unable to focus on anything else.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: So we're giving it a shot today. Aware that... wow. But maybe everybody needs something else to think about and put their brain on and talk about for a minute, to take a break from thinking about yesterday.

[pause]

Raleigh: Maybe.

Sydnee: Maybe?

Taylor: Maybe, [through laughter] yeah. We'll do our best.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [sighs]

Sydnee: [sighs] We hope you are all okay out there.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Um... and that, uh— that maybe you need, like, a bit of a respite, to be whisked away from this world... which would be good— you know, there are so many times in the past year [laughs] when I wanted to be— well, really the past four years, but specifically in the past year, where I would've liked to be whisked away.

Raleigh: Anywhere else.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Almost anywhere else.

Taylor: It's good to take breaks from reality, just in general, every now and then. And I think in our present time, it's especially good to remember that, that it's okay to— to just disappear into something fiction for a small break. And then get back to focus. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. I get really into, like, true crime and, like, procedural-type TV shows and stuff. Um, and last night I just had to stop watching the news before bed, and I said, "Mom, I'm gonna go watch some *Criminal Minds*," you know, the show where they, like, uh, catch lots of serial killers. Because that's cheerier right now than what's going on in the world. I need to go escape into that world for a little bit! [laughs]

Taylor: But that actually does sound better, because in those procedural dramas the bad guy is arrested and put in jail, which is actually like a weird false fantasy concept right now, so, you know. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: That is comforting!

Raleigh: It's very—[laughs quietly] it's very safe and comfortable. I know what's gonna happen. There's a bad guy, but I know by the end of it he's gonna be arrested, or maybe sometimes by the end of the next episode. Sometimes there's a two-parter, but that's it.

Sydney: It is— it is true that you can only sit there watching— which I never watch television news. So, like, yesterday was weird on that account too, 'cause it's like that and the election, these are my two forays into television news in recent years, and both times I'm watching it like, "Is this what it's like always? [laughs quietly] Is this always what the news is like when it's on TV? Why is it so scary? [laughs quietly]"

Um, I mean, not that the events weren't scary, but I feel like it gets scarier on TV.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: Uh, but you can only watch television news and yell "Stop calling them protesters! They're terrorists!" so many times before you finally go, "I can't do this anymore." [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I think I had to turn it off when— now, I don't have cable, so I just, like, watch the streaming— the few channels that stream on YouTube. Like, I think it was CNN. CNN does, CBS does. Uh, I just know that MSNBC does not, because I never get to see the wonderful map man.

Sydnee: Kornacki.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Kornacki.

Taylor: But anyway, one of the anchors on the channel I was watching said, "This is almost like— this is almost like performance art, what we're witnessing."

And I just was like, "Nope! Nope! No you're not— 'Oh, look, some— some white people are causing violence? It's performance art!" I was like, "Yeah, [through laughter] we're turning off the TV! We're not— not supporting this anymore."

It's not performance art, it's insurrection. It's terrorism!

Sydnee: That was the only thing— see, that was the only thing I have to say for MSNBC, uh, in that moment, other than they have Kornacki, who I love, is I felt like at some point the shift from protesters to, like, domestic terrorists, insurrectionists, you know—

Raleigh: It took a little bit.

Sydnee: Traitors, committing treason. Like, all those— it got there, though. Like, I feel like we got there. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, I also did appreciate that earlier in the day, before all the events, when the current President was hosting his rally with all of those people, they just pushed it to the bottom corner of the screen and muted it and literally said, like, "It doesn't really matter what he's saying right now. This is happening right now, but we're not gonna— we're not gonna air anything he's saying." [laughs quietly] I do appreciate that.

Um... but yeah, I also got to see some good fights in the Senate and in the House when they were livestreaming the pro— um, debates over the objections when

they finally got back to work. Some exciting stuff going on there. There was almost a fistfight.

Sydnee: Wow.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: What are we, Parliament?

Raleigh: [sarcastically] I know! [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: That wasn't a knock on Parliament, I just always thought it was spicier.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: It is, yeah.

Sydnee: Not anymore!

Raleigh: Apparently not. [laughs]

Taylor: No, that stuff went on until, like, what? I fell asleep watching it last night and I think I was waiting on Wisconsin, because Pennsylvania took so long. So long to certify Pennsylvania, and then I drifted off to the worst thing to fall asleep to. [laughs]

Raleigh: It happened— it happened during the six hours of debate, seemingly, about Pennsylvania, um, that a Democrat and a Republican almost got into fisticuffs and had to be removed. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I— I couldn't— see, I couldn't, um... I had to get up early— I'm on hospital service, so I had to get up early. And I couldn't have anything to drink, 'cause I'm on hospital service. And so I just— at some point we were like, "let's watch this short show about home cooks making... leftovers into fancy meals, and then go to bed early."

Raleigh: I do like that show. [laughs]

Taylor: That is a good show. That is a very happy place.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, I—[laughs quietly] I got a lot of work to do, I got a lot of sick people to take care of, I'm gonna have to turn this off for the moment. I just can't."

Sydnee: I'm not, uh— I'm not doing dry January, but I am trying to, like, cut back. Like, no drinking on the weekdays, you know? That kind of stuff. And, uh, last night was a good test. 'Cause I was like, "You know what? No, no, okay, this is good. This is good for me to separate when I lean on it because I need it versus when I enjoy it because I want to. Because I don't want to enjoy anything right now. There's nothing to enjoy. It would just be to help with my stress, which is a bad reason to drink, so I'm not going to." [laughs quietly] It was a good test.

Raleigh: Um, you know what else is a joyful place I like to escape to?

Sydnee: There you go.

Taylor: Ha...

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] *Schitt's Creek*.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's right. We're talking about *Schitt's Creek* which, as we said previously, is not the bad word, so don't worry. We're not breaking our rule.

Raleigh: It's someone's name, and it's spelled differently.

Sydnee: So it's okay for us to say.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Jeez, Mom!

Raleigh: Gosh, Mom. I know you tell us all the time not the curse so much—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: —but this one's okay, Mom.

Sydnee: [laughs] I know Mom definitely has a problem with profanity. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yep.

Taylor: Yeah, I— I was gonna go along with that, but Mom taught us all how to say bad words! [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, so... good. Let's talk about *Schitt's Creek*.

Raleigh: Yes, please.

Sydnee: 'Cause it's so happy.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Um, I will be the first to admit that I was skeptical of *Schitt's Creek*. Um, our parents watched it— although I've recently found out, just Mom.

Raleigh: Just Mom, mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Although every time Mom would talk about it, Dad would sit there and go, "Yeah. Yeah." and nod like he had watched it too, when in reality he had bailed on it after, like, season two.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Wait, really?

Sydnee: Did you know this? Yeah!

Taylor: Dad's never finished it?

Sydnee: No, he's just been pretending this whole time that when Mom's like, "You *have* to watch it," he's goin', "Uh-huh, uh-huh." And he hadn't— he didn't watch it.

Raleigh: As I was watching it, I thought he had also seen all of it, so I would tell both of them about, like, funny scenes I had just seen or something and be, like,

describing them. And Mom would be like, "Oh, I remember that. Oh my gosh, it was so funny."

We'd be laughing about it, and Dad would be like, "Oh yeah, [fake laughter]." [laughs] Afterwards I was like, "Well, Dad, you hadn't even seen it!"

Sydnee: You know what, I should have known, because I can't remember a time where Dad ever recounted in excruciating detail an entire episode of *Schitt's Creek* to me, and that's, like, the surefire sign that Dad has watched something and enjoyed it is that he will then recount it to you in excruciating detail.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Including the evening news. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes! [laughs]

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: Or the *Dear Abby* or whoever section of the newspaper, perhaps.

Taylor: Nothing's better than when he describes a comic, panel-by-panel, to me. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Just the best way to engage with comics as a medium.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Um, so I—

Raleigh: We love our dad. I'm sorry.

Taylor: [through laughter] We do.

Sydnee: I know. I'm sorry. Dad— Dad, we love you. Thank you for editing our show—[wheeze-laughs]

Taylor: [bursts into laughter]

Sydnee: —for us!

Taylor: That's right. Hi, Dad! I love you. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Hi, Dad!

Sydnee: Sorry. Um, but—

Raleigh: Anyways. [laughs]

Sydnee: Mom kept trying to convince us to watch it, and I have to be honest. I— I don't always find that Mom knows what, like, I will enjoy. And so she'll rec— she recommends a lot of shows to me that I'm like, "Oh, Mom. I know just from the description I'm not gonna like that."

Sydnee: So I was skeptical. We tried it once, a while back. Like, we watched the first episode and we were like, "Why do people like this? We'll— eh, we'll give it a try."

So we watched, like, three. I wanna say we watched the first three episodes. And I just couldn't get it. I was like, "Man, I don't really like these rich people. They seem like jerks. But I don't really like this town they move into. I'm not getting this, like, quaint small-town vibe from it. You know, this isn't Stars Hollow or something. I don't really like these people, either. I don't know who I'm supposed to like. Who am I rooting for? Do I want them to get mo—"

I don't know. I was just turned off by the whole thing. I wasn't rooting for anybody, and we bailed on it. And we both felt the same way. We were like, "We're just done."

So, we got back into it because Mom kept insisting. It seemed like during the pandemic, everybody was one-by-one falling to *Schitt's Creek*. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, the Emmys gave them, like, all of the awards!

Taylor: That's true, yeah.

Sydnee: The Emmys gave them all the awards, yeah. And that was very intriguing. I was like, "Well, no, okay. Alright now. What am I missing?"

Uh, and then finally I decided, like I said, that it must be that the pandemic isn't gonna end until we all watch *Schitt's Creek*.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Um, so I'll do my part and watch *Schitt's Creek*. And we entered into it as a game of chicken. Justin and I watching it and daring the other one to say "I wanna watch something else" first.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: What Justin doesn't know is, I don't lose.

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: This is true.

Sydnee: So we watched all of them, and I am glad that I did, 'cause by the end, I get it. It's great, and I enjoyed it.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, I have to say— now, last week, if you didn't listen last week, Sydnee and Taylor both had already watched all of *Schitt's Creek* when we decided to do this episode.

I had not watched a single episode, so I would just like to reiterate here, I made a commitment last Wednesday to watch all of *Schitt's Creek* before this Wednesday. And then, you know, an insurrection happened on Wednesday, so now it's Thursday. But still, by Sunday... I had watched every episode of *Schitt's Creek*.

Taylor: I was gonna say, you came in ahead of the deadline, there!

Raleigh: Yes. Um, and I am very glad I did, also. I will say, I knew— I mean, one, I had to watch all of it because I said I would for this show. But also, I knew it was going to get good, because not only was Mom telling me it was good, but now you both were telling me it was good. So, I was like, "Okay. Well, I guess, like, it actually has to be then, right? Like, all of my family is telling me it's a good show."

And it was a struggle for about two seasons. I just had it on in the background just, like, "When is this... why— it ha— what am I missing? Like, I have to be missing something."

And then it got very good, and then I couldn't stop watching it. Um, and then it made me cry, and then it was over.

Sydnee: Now, Tey, you enjoyed it more through the whole thing, which— I mean, I know— I know it definitely got better. I know you said that. But I wanted to ask about that, because I've heard a lot of people who when we first started watching it, I said, "Man, I just don't get this."

I had a lot of people tell me "I know, in the beginning it's not good, but it gets so much better, I promise."

You seem to like it a little more from the jump.

Taylor: Yeah, I don't— I— I've contemplated that. Um, I... I don't know. I don't mind when characters are awful if I think something is— is going on in the narra— in the story. I kind of like— I like redemption stories, and I like good redemption stories. I like stories about people changing, because I think that's— you know.

Some people believe that no one can change. I'm somebody that believes that people can change, and I like stories that embrace that idea. So, I think from the beginning it was— when it revealed itself that "We're gonna show you how people can actually change and become better versions of themselves," that I was along for the ride. 'Cause that kind of was locked in as what the show was gonna do from the beginning. Um, and I think that's the beauty of the show, is that it's— it is a story about redemption, but it's in real time.

Sydnee: I think that's it, you're hitting the nail on the head that, um, I find really rare in a television show. Um, I think, like, if you look at a— not that these shows are comparable, but just the first one that has this trope that pops to mind is *Friends*. If you look at a show like *Friends* where you have, like, a couple that you know the whole show is about them getting together, you have to have them, like, get together and break up, like, a dozen different times, because the pace of action— like, the expected pace of stuff happening is so fast. And not like real life, right?

In real life— well, except for 2020. In real life, there isn't something happening [laughs quietly] that's, like— like, totally life-changing or shattering or whatever every single day. There's long stretches where you're just kind of... doin' your business. Um, and this show I thought was really rare in that sense, where it, like— I felt like, "Well, what— how are they changing? Show me. Where is it? When is it happening?"

And it was happening slowly and subtly, and that's very real. But also, like, I just don't feel like that's a common thing we see on television.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, and I think— you know, I think that even in the first season you see, like— I think even the first season, the way the family interacts as they start to have to exist in this same space, there is a loving quality between them that is written into the show, and I think that that's, you know— goes to the idea that— look, these people— it's not like you're a good person and you can make— you know, you can fall from grace or you're a bad person, but maybe through great effort you can change.

I think it's more that we all have the possibility to be good or bad, and it's really just about, you know, how we push ourselves, but also the environment we're in. So I don't know. Yeah, I think— I think that was all there in the beginning, though.

Sydnee: Um, I appreciated— I think they do a good job of, uh, as someone who— I don't— I wouldn't say that we live in a *Schitt's Creek* necessarily...

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Only slightly bigger.

Sydnee: It's— yeah. [laughs]

Raleigh: We live in an Elmdale. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yeah, I was gonna say. [laughs quietly] It's not too far off. Um, and usually I feel like in TV shows, uh, the characters— I mean, it's either one or the other, right? It's either presented with this, like, um... "It's a small town where the real people live, and they've got real heart, and are real loving and giving, and that's where all the real people are," as if, you know, "city folk bad" kind of

thing. Or it's presented with the opposite of, like, the sophisticated, intelligent city folk arrive, and the town's full of backwoods dullards.

And I really— they do such a good job of not embr— of, like, flirting with those things from time to time, like, through the eyes of the chara— the way the characters see each other. 'Cause you can tell they very much see each other that way in the beginning. Like, "Oh, you think you're so much better than us," rich people versus "Look at these dumb hillbilly" kind of thing.

I mean, you definitely can see that maybe that dichotomy exists between the characters, but the show doesn't see them that way. The show sees them as people who have good qualities and bad qualities, and are fully fleshed-out, rounded characters, and I think that is such— that's so difficult to do. But you still know that that's there. That, like, tension is there, because the characters would feel that towards each other to some extent, and so it's reflected in the— I mean, it's— it's so subtle.

Raleigh: It is. Um, so much so to, like, the point where I got to the end of it— and obviously they're very different people by the time the end of the series rolls around. But I had to sit there for a second after all their, like, individual stories... not ended, but, like, within the show, their stories have ended and they're all going their separate ways and doing their own things.

I had to, like, sit and think, like, why each of those story lines was so important to each of them as a character. And not just for, like, the main family, the rich people. For the— for the townspeople as well. Um, and it really is. You can see all of those things from the beginning about, like, why it was important for Alexis to be able to, like, be okay on her own and, like, be independent and do her own thing, or for David to open himself up to other people and, like, be okay not being around a bunch of other, like, rich, smart people, whatever, that he thought he needed validation from.

Um, but, like, you see those things from the beginning, and then at the end you look back and you're like, "Wow! They've been, like— they've been on this path since the very beginning and now, like, they're here and they did it. But, like, there were funny goofs along the way! But, like, they made progress, and look at that! We were here for it."

Taylor: Well, and I think—

Rileigh: It's very good.

Taylor: Yeah, and that's so much to the point that, like, by the end of it they are changed, but they're not these massively different people, you know? It's not that hero's narrative where they've been brought to their knees and made to soul search and tear themselves apart.

It's really just kind of a turn of corner for all of them, where the stuff they had all along that could make them better versions of themselves, it was there, they just had to embrace it, you know? From the very beginning, you have Alexis telling these great stories about how she's escaped [through laughter] from all these crazy situa— like, she's clearly somebody that can survive on her own very well! And yet that's her greatest fear, and that's the thing that she conquers. But she was always able. I think that's really beautiful storytelling, because I do think that's also, once again, parallel to real life.

We— we— it's not this massive, "I have to become somebody completely new, I have to burn down who I was." It's really just sorting out what sucks about you and what's awesome, and embracing the awesome, and that's— that's redemption.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I think it's really interesting. The parents go on similar journeys. Again, I think a little more subtle just because, like, I think you've established a lot more of who you are and how you see the world at that age. But, like, you see Johnny, um— I think with the hotel chains, like, start to— he's building something from the ground up, just like he did with the video stores.

And you really see, like— I mean, yeah was— it's easy to just write him off as, like, "Well, a rich guy." But, like, well, clearly he was good at that and enjoyed that and liked the hard work of building something, and they reference how meticulous he was about his video stores and all that a lot, and you see him doing that with the motels and, like, he's cleaning rooms and turning down beds on his own. I don't know. I really admired that, like, "Okay, well—" it gives him— the hard work is it for him. The hard work is the thing, and that is who he is, and he finds his redemption in returning to that hard work.

Rileigh: Yeah. And then he brings Stevie in on it with him, and their whole relationship just I did not expect to make me so emotional, but just, like— I don't

know. She just went— I mean, she was a good character to me from the beginning. Like, she was one of those that you could argue that the family started out not as bad people but just as very, like, self-centered, egocentric, arrogant people. I don't think Stevie ever started out as someone that had, like, bad personality flaws or anything.

She just, like, was lost, and felt like she had no direction. She was just in this same town for her whole life and didn't know what she was doing. And then he came in and was like, "You don't have to drastically change your life. You don't have to move somewhere and start over or, like, experience the whole world because someone makes you feel bad for, like, staying in your hometown for your whole life. But here's how we can, like—

[phone rings]

Raleigh: —make what you're doing even better." Sydnee. Is your phone ringing [through laughter] while we're recording?

[phone continues ringing]

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: I'm sorry!

Raleigh: Wow, Sydnee!

Sydnee: It's Justin!

Raleigh: Justin!

Taylor: Why is his phone here?

Sydnee: No, it's—

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] It's ringing through the computer!

[ringing stops]

Sydnee: I'm so sorry. It was ringing through the computer.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It's Justin's fault.

Raleigh: Justin, if you're listening...

Sydnee: This seems like a— this seems like a good mo— a good moment—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —to, um, pick up your phones, and... [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [through laughter] Let's check the group message.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: Uh... I'm first. I have—

Raleigh: [snorts quietly]

Sydnee: —I would like to go first.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [through laughter] Okay.

Sydnee: Phew. Sorry, that really threw me.

Taylor: So smooth! The— the smoothest.

Sydnee: That's what I'm known for. The smoothest ad delivery in the business.
[laughs quietly]

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: Uh, and transitions. Uh, I— you know what else is smooth? Native Deodorant. [snorts quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs] Okay, sure, yeah.

Taylor: It is a quality it possesses.

Sydnee: Do you wanna smell good? 'Cause I do.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, and deodorant can be essential to that. Take it from me, someone who sweats. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Um... ingredients in Native deodorant include things that you have heard of. Things like coconut oil, things like shea butter. None of their products are tested on animals. Almost everything is vegan. Uh, and they have over ten scents. They've got classics. They've got rotating seasonals. Um, we've talked about it before. I love— I love to smell beachy. They've got coconut scents. I love that. Uh, they even had pumpkin spice.

Rileigh: Yeah. And peppermint, for a while.

Sydnee: And peppermint. Uh, you can check out all these scents. You can smell great. You can feel great about the product that you're putting, um, on that very special part of your body. [pause]

Rileigh: Your pits.

Taylor: Very special.

Sydnee: Yes. Uh, with—[laughs] with Native Deodorant. And where can our listeners check that out, Taylor?

Taylor: Well, you can make the switch to Native today by going to nativideo.com/buffering, or use promo code "buffering" at checkout and get 20% off your first order. That's nativideo.com/buffering, or use promo code "buffering" at checkout, get that 20% off your first order.

Raleigh: So, I don't know about you all, but after 2020, I was really lookin' to, like, refresh and restart this year.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: With the new year. The dawn of 2021, which so far has not been super different, but it's only been, like, a week. I'm giving it some time to, like, settle in. Um, but often at the beginning of a new year, I like to, like... I don't know, try to do some new things, learn some new skills.

I don't like to say resolutions, exactly, [holding back laughter] because I never end up following through actually on most of them. But, um, one way I've been doing that this year so far in 2021 is with HelloFresh, America's number one meal kit. Um, whether you're someone who is looking to cook more, maybe save some money on your grocery trips, um, HelloFresh is your one box solution to all those new year, uh... what would I call it instead? Maybe, like, um... your— your new year ideas! Your plans. Your new— new hobbies for the new year.

Sydnee: [through laughter] H— hobbies?

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: New hobbies for the new year.

Sydnee: My new— my new hopeful guesses for what—

Raleigh: Hopeful guesses!

Sydnee: —what— why's in store.

Raleigh: There we go.

Taylor: New blueprints. Newprints!

Raleigh: There you go, newprints! Um, HelloFresh cuts out stressful meal planning and grocery store trips, so you can enjoy cooking and get dinner on the table in about 30 minutes or less, which I know for me, once especially I get back into classes and life is busy, I like cooking and I like eating food I have made for myself, but I hate going to the grocery store, especially now.

And I hate having to, like, make a whole list ahead of time, and HelloFresh makes it so I don't have to worry about that. They offer 23 plus weekly recipes with a range of cuisines and ingredients, so there is always something new to try. I know I just got a new box recently. I had some really good pork chops with this, like, apple-y jam sauce and mashed potatoes and roasted Brussels sprouts. It was very good. Also, it was very easy to cook, and I am not the best cook, but it was very easy, and it was very delicious.

Sydnee: Yum!

Raleigh: Um, so Teylor, if our listeners want to check out HelloFresh as well, what should they do?

Teylor: They should go to hellofresh.com/buffering10 and use code "still buffering 10" for 10 free meals, including free shipping! That's hellofresh.com/stillbuffering10 and code "still buffering 10"!

Sydnee: Okay. So, the thing we have not discussed about *Schitt's Creek*, um... [laughs quietly] that one of the reasons— not the only or the main reason that I think we love it, but one of the reasons is, uh— and mom actually tried to make us promise not to mention this.

Raleigh: But it was impossible to, this episode, not mention this.

Teylor: Oh, yeah, no, no way, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. I did not. I did not agree. I said, "No, I won't. No, I do not."

Raleigh: [simultaneously] No, I said, "No, absolutely not." [laughs]

Sydnee: "I do not take that challenge." Uh, is our mother is Moira Rose, so much so that it was like— there were moments where I thought, like, was someone following Mom around, and then made a character based on her?

Teylor: Yeah, I was like, that—

Raleigh: It's possible. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: —they have met. Like, the actress that is Moira has met Mom at some point and been like, "Oh, I'm gonna put that one in the back of my head, use that someday." [laughs]

Raleigh: "You could base a character off this." [laughs]

Sydnee: It really— it really was weird. It's really, like— you know at the end of *Dawson's Creek* when Dawson just makes a TV show based on his life?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And he just, like, slightly changes the names of the characters? Like, Pacey becomes... Basey, and Joey becomes—

Taylor: [snorts]

Raleigh: [laughs] I don't think that one's right!

Sydnee: —Bowie, or whatever. I don't know. [laughs]

Taylor: Everybody's name starts with a B now. That's it. [laughs]

Sydnee: Dawson is Bawson. I don't know, whatever. [laughs] Jen becomes Ben. That's a name.

Taylor: *Bawson's Beak*. [laughs]

Raleigh: That's a name.

Taylor: It's about birbs!

Sydnee: [laughs] *Bawson's Beak!*

[all laugh]

Taylor: And they're all birds. It's a cartoon show, it's really good. I like it!
[laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] It's—[laughs] that's— that's how it feels watching Moira Rose.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And Mary Smirl.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, but of course I love both of them.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I love Moira Rose and I love our mother. But there's just... I don't even know how to describe it other than, if you have never met our mother, which is I think probably almost all of you, if you've watched *Schitt's Creek*, you have— you have met our mother. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. And it's—

Taylor: Yes. Down to, like, the— oh, go ahead.

Sydnee: No, go ahead, finish your thought.

Taylor: I was gonna say, down to, like, the style. Like, the— the black and white color palette and, like, kind of the, like, easy mix between kind of masculine but then feminine accents. Like, that's so Mom's style. Like, and I love Mom's style. She has great style, but it's very that. It's like a little theatrical, like [laughs] always, like, two notches above than what you would need to do for the occasion, but I respect that. I embrace that, personally. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yes, that is also true. Mom does not have a collection of wigs. I will go ahead and put that out there.

Taylor: That's true.

Raleigh: That's true.

Sydnee: Mom's hair is just Mom's hair. Um, but the— it's that mix, and I think that that was something I did appreciate a lot too, is that, like... Moira Rose, the actress character that, like, you could have seen on the show, could have been overly dramatic and self-involved and have just no, like... heart or soul there.

Just, like, your kind of typical TV portrayal of, "Oh, this is what we think actors are like." Um, but instead she wasn't that. Like, she is a little dramatic. But... but she genuinely cares about things, and about people, and about doing good. Like, doing good work and, like, the projects she's involved in, she wants to put her whole self into them and make them better, and, like, you know— you see, whether it's the town council, or when she's involved in the [laughs quietly] *The Crows Have Eyes*—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Or cabaret.

Sydnee: [laughs] Or directing a community theater production! [laughs]

Taylor: Yes!

Raleigh: [laughs breathlessly]

Sydnee: Which just felt so real.

Raleigh: I didn't know that was a story line that was gonna happen, and when it started, and she became director, I just fell over.

Taylor: I know!

Raleigh: I was like, "Oh my gosh, this is perfect!" Her attitude with the actors, and when Stevie plays the lead, but then is late on opening night, and Moira comes in dressed in Stevie's character ready to go on for her. [holding back laughter] It's just so good! [laughs] It's so—[laughs]

Taylor: Well, and you know— but you do get that— and I like that they don't make a huge deal of it, but you get Moira's backstory, that she grew up in a small town and that she clearly worked her way hard, and in that way her and Johnny are kind of parallel in that they both are people that worked hard to have the pride that they have.

And so it's just— you know, they both didn't just happen into money or fame. They worked for it, and now— and they still possess those qualities that help them rise to those places. So, while Moira can be a little prideful, it's because she worked really hard for that, and now she's sort of rebuilding that. Which, I don't

know. Like, I thought it was— yeah, I think they could've very easily made her a throwaway caricature, and the character has a lot of heart, and I love that. [laughs quietly] 'Cause I love our mom.

Sydnee: Well, exactly. And I really like that part of her story line towards the end wasn't— 'cause you think it's that she's going to abandon acting, but it's not that. It's that she's going to demand her worth in that world. She's going to reenter it on her terms, or not at all. Um, which is a very powerful stance for that character to get to take at the— you know, that's kind of the end of her arc on the show, is "Yeah, okay, I'll be back on this show, but here are my terms. Take it or leave it."

And to have that recognized and answered, to know her worth, I think that was... that was a really cool narrative for her.

Taylor: Mm-hmm. I think my— the scene that I think endeared me the most to Moira is when she, uh— everybody thinks— I think— everybody thinks she's died.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Yes.

Taylor: And she's gonna go— she's gonna go present herself, but she spends forever putting on that dramatic silver dress, and then by the time she goes out, the news vans are all gone.

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Taylor: And then she— but she's not shaken by it. She's like, "Well, I guess I'm gonna go have dinner. I'm not gonna waste this outfit!" [laughs] I was like, you know, I kind of expected the character to have, like, a breakdown. Like, "Oh no, no one's here to see me!"

But it was like, "Oh? I'm not gonna waste an outfit."

I'm like, "I— this is—[laughs] this is a good character." [laughs]

Raleigh: Um, I would like to present my thesis, which is this. So, it's just like you all had said about how, you know, Johnny and Moira, neither of them were, like, born into money. Like, Johnny created his video empire, and Moira talks about a lot how she came from a small town and did not have money and, um, then was discovered and went into acting. Uh, but the opposite is true for Alexis and David,

because they were born into money, because Johnny and Moira are their parents, so much so that when they talk about their childhood it's not just like, oh, they were comfortable.

It's like, no, they— they, like, you know, had all these crazy experiences as children. They went to these, like, great schools, or they, um— I mean, even, like, Johnny and Moira, the whole story line of them, like, didn't really raise them when they were younger because they had all sorts of staff to raise them, and then they learned how to be parents also. All that going on.

But the point is, Alexis and David were raised with a lot of money. Um, and I think the opposite happens for both of them, which is they go from, like... demanding the same quality of life they had been used to and thinking, like, they cannot exist in this world where they don't have all of this money and all of these experiences, to, like, realizing all of the work it takes to almost be to that point, so they both accept that they can start doing that work for themselves, and do that for themselves. Because neither of them are just like, "Well, okay, I guess I can't do anything and I just need to sit around and, you know, wait until we get our money back or something, or until, like, mom or dad makes money."

Like, eventually both of them start their own businesses and become their own independent people, and it's— it's really cool, because they're both, like, adults in their 20s and 30s, but you almost see them grow from, like, teenagers to actual adults in their personalities.

Sydnee: It's so true. It's— the parents really get— and I think these are things, like, as a parent I kept picking up on. You would see moments where, like, David and Alexis were clearly behind in terms of maturity in, like, their way to cope with something or handle something or, like, just deal with the world. And you could see that, like, on some level, Johnny and Moira knew they had done that.

Like, they had allowed their kids to not learn these things and know these things and be strong in these ways, and this was almost like— this time they spend in the motel is like redemption. They got to, like— they get a second shot at parenting, the way you do when your kids are little, which is right there in there in the house with you. [laughs] Nonstop, all the time, in the next room. And they do that, and it's really cool to kind of see them, like, actually grow up and leave the nest, only as adults. [laughs] When most people do it much younger.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Um, I think that is a really cool dichotomy.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. That is also kind of my defense for Alexis, because she is a good character.

Sydnee: She is!

Raleigh: And— and I—

Taylor: I agree.

Raleigh: —all of you have compared me to Alexis, for many reasons.

Sydnee: Only after you compared yourself, to be fair.

Taylor: You did it first, yes.

Raleigh: But then you were very quick to say, "Well..."

Um, but yes, that is fair. But I think I appreciated her story arc the most. They all had very good story development, character development, but.

Sydnee: It was hard. I was sad that her and Ted weren't together, because I liked the way she, like, had Ted, lost Ted, earned her way back, you know, into a good relationship, because she showed she had changed. And I appreciated all that, and I liked Ted. I thought he was funny. But it was good that she was alone and gonna do things on her own. It was the right thing.

Raleigh: Yeah. I read an interview with Daniel Levy, that they had intended for the series to end with a double wedding with Ted and Alexis and David and, um—

Sydnee: Patrick.

Raleigh: Patrick, yes. But then they decided about a season sooner, I think, like, "Well, no, actually, that's not—" either Ted or Alexis will be giving something up that they would actually want for themselves to get married, whereas, like, David and Patrick, what they got out of finding themselves and doing the hard work was each other.

Like, they weren't giving anything up to be together. That was what they got. Um, so that was why they decide to not have them together, which also made me cry. But the breakup scene between them was, like, the healthiest, most mature breakup I have seen on a television show, at least in my television experience, because it was very much just, like, we both care about each other, but this is not best for us.

Sydnee: Maybe a tad unrealistic in how—[laughs]

Raleigh: Sure, yes. A tad unrealistic.

Sydnee: How healthy. [laughs]

Raleigh: But... but... still. It was two adults saying, like—

Sydnee: Yes, yeah.

Raleigh: —we— we helped each other get to this point. We're both successful on our own, but we're both doing a lot right now, and it would take, like, one of us giving something up and being resentful of the other eventually.

Sydnee: They were building things separately, whereas David and Patrick had built something together.

Raleigh: Exactly.

Taylor: Well, and I really liked how the show had a sort of de-escalation of moments that I think just from being exposed to so much garbage drama I was expecting to get drawn out into a bigger plot point. Like, you know, when— just, like, the fight between Stevie and— or the uncomfortable situation between Stevie and David.

Like, I thought that was gonna get— and then it was just resolved. Like, stuff like that. I think it sets a good example, because I do think that we kind of— we are educated by the drama we intake, by the fiction we intake, and I think that it had a consistent, like, you know, things don't have to go that far. You can talk to people, and forgive them, or meet in the middle, or agree to disagree. These are all things we're capable of. You don't need to have a, you know, a season-long arc about you guys learning how to be nice together, er, to each other again. [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Well, I mean, I think that takes us to my favorite part of the show, which is David and Patrick's relationship.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Uh, David in general. But then, like, even better. Like, there's so much synergy there. David is great, but then you add Patrick in, and they are the whole is more than the sum of its parts. Um, there were so many time— once they got together, and it was so great— like, I loved them instantly.

I was so worried, because on most television shows they're gonna have to fall apart before they get to be together at the end. And I kept waiting for any little, you know, tiff to turn into that big thing, and it doesn't. And I think that that is very realistic, because most of the time, relationships don't end over a little fight. Or even, like, something big.

A lot of times you do, if you really love each other, you do talk and work it out, and all that kind of stuff. A lot of times that's the case. Sometimes not, but a lot of times it is, and that's really what they reflected is, like, a relationship is always gonna have moments where you hurt each other, and here's how you work through it to get to the other side of that and be stronger, and that's what they showed over and over again.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, and I mean, also I will say with David's story line, to me it was— I think the most beautiful aspect of the whole show involving him. It's the lack of homophobia in *Schitt's Creek*! It's that they just didn't write it into the show, and they made that choice actively.

Like, we're not gonna— every— you know, I think it's fine to have queer narratives about confronting problems that affect queer lives, but I also think it's such a breath of fresh air to have a queer narrative that's not about all of the crap that comes with being queer. Where it's just his family accepts him, you know, the— yeah, this is, like, a— you know, a very rural little town, but these people aren't hateful.

They aren't— they don't not understand him. It's just not brought up, and that is just so beautiful, because it's kind of the same thing. It's like, we still do learn from the media we consume, and when young queer people see nothing but just tragic or at least, like, "It's gonna be real rough, but you might get a happy ending, maybe!" narratives out there. It's pretty depressing! So, I'm really happy that they created this universe where that aspect just wasn't brought in from the real world.

Rileigh: Yeah. And I have to say, especially so because with David's character, I knew from the beginning, just because I had heard you all talk about the show and, like, his relationship with Patrick that he was— I had assumed he was gay.

Um, but then in one of the very first episodes after he and Stevie, like, almost are in a relationship but then aren't, and she's confused. She's like, "Well, I thought you were—" they use the wine as, like, a metaphor when they're talking, but she's basically like, "I thought you only liked men." And he has this very— again, with the wine metaphor— um, way of saying, like, "No, I like anyone."

And it was just, like, a very good moment for me to just see, like, this wasn't "Oh, you were just confused or, like, drunk or whatever, so you were with a woman, but you're gay." Like, no. Like, this is a character who is— they don't define— I don't wanna label his character—

Sydnee: Bi or pan, whatever. Yeah.

Rileigh: —pansexual, bisexual, yeah. Um, but they don't, like, constrain him into that typical narrative of, like, this is a gay male character who, I don't know, has, like, slept with a woman once and then, like, "Oh no, but that was just because, like, whatever, and now his parents think, like, 'Oh, is he straight now?' or whatever." Like, there's none of that. I don't know. It was just very healthy and normal to see that, because I feel like that's unusual as well.

Sydnee: I thought that was, and I thought the way that they dealt with Patrick's parents— 'cause what you're really expecting, you know, David invites Patrick's parents in, and Patrick's parents don't know that he's dating David, don't know that he's gay, because he has previously kept that hidden and only dated women.

Rileigh: And was engaged to a woman.

Sydnee: And was engaged to a woman. Which he kind of indicates he was never happy in any of those relationships, which makes me think he is gay. Um, but when you bring the parents in and they're sort of shocked, you're assuming, like, "Oh, man. Now we're gonna have to deal with Patrick's parents being homophobic, and it's— ugh."

And it was like, I almost didn't want to watch it 'cause I was like, "I don't wanna watch this." But it wasn't that. They were just shocked because what did they do wrong as parents that Patrick wouldn't feel comfortable telling them right away? And that was the whole controversy was they just completely loved and supported their son, and wanted him to know that, and were worried he didn't. Which is, like, that's— that's the conflict. [laughs] "We're worried our son doesn't know how much we love him." [laughs] That's so nice. Is this what Canada is like?

Raleigh: You know, I was thinking about this a lot when I was watching this show, and I was like, "Wow it's just so, like—" and especially with the way that it ends. Um, like, I feel like obviously I didn't want it to end. I wanted there to be more of it, but it was a good ending. It was a show that knew when it had completed its arc and its story, and this was its ending. It didn't keep going on just for the sake of existing. That is not true with a lot of American shows. But I just kept thinking that, like, this has something to do with the fact that this is not American, right? [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, people are nice. They don't take every single thing as, like— there were a lot of times where people would sort of insult each other or be kind of rude for a second, and again, you would expect that to be the end of a relationship or a friendship, or like it would be the source of a ton of drama, and people kind of take it in stride. Like, "Man, they're having a bad day. They're just being a jerk today. It's okay. You know, I know how they feel. I'ma move on."

There were so many moments like that. Um, we didn't really talk about a lot of the character who weren't the main family but, like, Roland and Jocelyn had the potential to be really grating stereotype characters in this kind of show, and they weren't. Um, especially Jocelyn, who had, like, this whole fleshed-out kind of... existence of all these things she's doing, and then this story line of having a surprise baby later in life, and all that kind of stuff, and, like— I found myself enjoying characters that, like, I assumed I would not. I assumed instantly, like, "Oh, I'm gonna hate these people." No. Nope, I did not.

Taylor: Yeah, nobody was written flat. Like Twyla. I loved Twyla.

Sydnee: Yeah, Twyla.

Raleigh: I love Twyla.

Taylor: 'Cause, you know, just— she's— she's pleasant. She's, you know, kind of silly. But then you find— like, by the end of it there's a depth to Twyla. I mean, she's had all this money the whole time, and she's made that choice. The choices that the, you know—

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] She's a millionaire.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: Yeah! Like, here are the Roses trying to, at the beginning, just figure out how to get back into that society that Twyla has already [laughs] reached that, you know, beautiful understanding of "Oh, but, you know, I don't— this is where my home is. I'm happy here. This is what makes me— this is what validates me."

And she had every opportunity to get out or restart her life anywhere, and she's chosen this. And I think that's really kind of a great kind of, you know, end note to the show, 'cause you don't find that out until the very end. It's like, "Oh, wow." [laughs] "Twyla knew all along. She was the smartest one all along!" [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: When that happened— 'cause that's in, like, the last or next to last episode. It's, like, right at the end. Um, when I found out she had won the lottery and split, like, 98 million dollars with one other person and had always had the tens of millions of dollars, I had to pause the show and sit for a minute. Like, "What?" I could not believe that! But it makes so much sense, because the whole time you're watching her and it's like, she's so nice.

And she, like— Alexis is not a great friend to her in the beginning. Like, kind of uses her and doesn't really know how to be a good friend to other people, I think. Um, but she is still always, like, nice to Alexis, and helping her out, and trying to help her, like, understand how to be a better person in a very nice way.

Um, but then at the end when you realize, like, she's not just doing this because she's stuck here, or because, like, her job as a waitress is what she has to do. So

she has to be nice to, like, customers or whatever. Like, she is doing this because she loves being here, and she just likes being a good person in the town that she has always lived in. That's crazy! That's wild!

Sydnee: That felt very validating for me. That and, like, Stevie's decision, like you said earlier, I don't need to go to a big town, like, a big city. [laughs quietly] I can kind of do the things I love and, like, this is okay, and I can embrace it. I know motels, and this is my thing, and I like being around them and in them, and I don't care. And, um, I felt very nice about those things, as a person who stayed in a small town.

Taylor: I thought that scene where, uh— where they're— Patrick and David are looking at the house, uh— or no, sorry, it's David and Stevie. And, you know, they have that whole talk about, you know, why does he want to go back to a place where people keep hurting him? I don't know. That— like, why does he want to prove himself to— that he's a winner to people that don't care about him, when he's here and he's already won? I thought that was really moving.

His decision to stay, you know, was— was something that— I don't know. I mean, I still live in a big city, but I think that that's something that I can relate to. That need to prove yourself as if— that you belong somewhere that, you know, is always just a fruitless endeavor.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And I felt very seen. Um, I didn't relate necessarily personally a lot to David's character, but the relationship between David and Patrick, I felt a lot of moments that felt very similar to me. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: To my own relationship, and especially when he was saying about the house, like, he came here and knocked on this door and asked if he could buy this house because a couple times we drove by it and I said I loved it so much, and so he did that. And he was going to buy me this house. And, like, the— how incredulous he is. Like, why would anybody ever do that, and why would they do that for me? And Stevie's like, "Because he's a good person." And, like, sometimes I feel that way [laughs] in our relationship.

Rileigh: See, I was thinking more so just some of those moments when, like, David would get, like— uh, upset with Alexis or with his parents or, like, upset about a situation and get very, like— start getting— I don't know. Not angry but just, like, very intense about the whole situation.

Sydnee: [laughs breathlessly]

Rileigh: And Patrick would just be there to kind of, like, grab him on the shoulder and be like, "Okay. Now, let's just talk about this through that we— let's calm down for a second, everybody."

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: "Let me take care of it." [laughs] That felt very much like you and Justin to me.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I have— I know I have to be handled sometimes. [laughs]

Taylor: There's— there's always— I think, you know, every relationship figures out its own balance, and one of those archetypes is somebody escalates and somebody de-escalates. [laughs] And that is very much you and Justin. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: I tweeted a joke to Justin about him being simply the best after we watched those great sce— both scenes, both when Patrick sings it to—

Rileigh: All three.

Sydnee: —to— yes.

Rileigh: Very.

Sydnee: But, uh, I tweeted something about that, and somebody said, "Are you the acoustic version or the floor show?"

And I was like, "I... I'm the floor show." [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] It's good to know where you stand. [laughs]

Raleigh: Um, I would just like to say, now, as a final thought, I have decided, even though it is January and Halloween is nine months away, I am intent on finding the dress that Alexis wears when she performs "A Little Bit Alexis" the theme song [through laughter] from her short-lived reality TV show, and wearing that and, um, going as Alexis for Halloween. [holding back laughter] And perform "A Little Bit Alexis." Oh, it's so good.

Taylor: I think that's great.

Raleigh: Oh, man.

Taylor: I'll have to find— I've seen a couple different sites sell that A necklace that she wears, uh, so we'll have to find that for you.

Sydnee: I know Travis got one of those David sweaters.

Raleigh: He did.

Sydnee: So I know that's out there. Well, uh, thank you both [holding back laughter] for watching *Schitt's Creek*. Um, thank you Mom, for convincing us. At least that's the reason I watched it, was Mom. Thank you for convincing me to watch *Schitt's Creek*. It was worth it. It was worth the early episodes, which I still think were a little okay, but... it got so much better. Um, and Teylor, what's next week?

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Okay. So, you know, I'd actually been contemplating this before Candenights, but then Candenights kind of sealed the deal because we had, uh— we had Strong Bad join us in the lineup. And I thought talking about *Homestar Runner*, the whole website, the series of videos around that and Strong Bad as well, who's part of that, would be fun. I also think it's cool because Raleigh, I don't— you've never experienced any of this, right?

Rileigh: No. I had no idea what/who was going on until Candenights.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: And that is, like, genuine. I really didn't know.

Sydnee: That must've been so strange. [laughs]

Rileigh: I just, like— I know when I shared a tweet about Candenights and it was a little teaser of a bunch of people that were gonna be a part of it, and everyone started responding to me, like, "Oh, Strong Bad's in this too?"

I was like, "Uhh... yeah!"

Taylor: That may be— I was happy to see that, because I think the era of internet I'm talking about is right before we got, like, hubs of creation, like YouTube and stuff. So, while I definitely enjoyed Strong Bad, I know my friends did, it was hard to know if the world at large was. Like, you knew you did. You know, your weird group of friends did, but you didn't know how far that reached. And seeing, like, "Oh no, we were all on our dial-up internet enjoying Strong Bad at the same time." So, yeah.

Sydnee: This'll be exciting for you to see, 'cause for those of us of a certain age range... this is everything. [laughs] This is huge.

Taylor: [laughs] There's so many weird references that you— you'll finally get. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Um, alright. Well, thank you both. Thank you, listeners. I hope you enjoy this and *Schitt's Creek*, and I hope this was a little bit of a diversion from how tough everything is. Please take care of yourselves. Look out for yourselves. It's always good to be active and engaged and, you know, paying attention to the world around you, but it's also okay to every moment take a break. Uh, every few moments, take a break and, you know, disengage a little bit. Stop doomscrolling for a second. I feel like that's all I've done. [laughs quietly] So.

Rileigh: Me too.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, thank you to Max Fun. You should go to Maximumfun.org if you want to check out other shows on our network. Um, thank you to... that's not what I was gonna say. I was gonna say you should tweet at us @stillbuff—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —and you can email us at stillbuffering—[laughs quietly] stillbuff—
[laughs quietly] @maximum... fun.org.

Raleigh: Fun.org.

Taylor: There it is.

Sydnee: I'm sorry. I'm—

Taylor: It's alright.

Sydnee: Oof. And thank you to the—

Taylor: But, uh—

Sydnee: [laughs] to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind." [laughs]

[theme music plays 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 Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

Sydnee: And—

Taylor: And—

Sydnee and Teylor: —[holding back laughter] I... am... too.

Teylor: Sydnee is actively buffering in front of us. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: [through laughter] I think I am. I'm just tired. [laughs]

Teylor: Just went into restart mode.

Sydnee: [groans]

[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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