

Still Buffering 245: TikTok

Published January 22nd, 2021
[Listen here on themcelroy.family](#)

[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 Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: I promise not to play with anything else while we're recording.

Rileigh: Okay. [laughs]

Sydnee: I was playing with something as we started recording. [laughs] And the look Rileigh just shot me... like—

Rileigh: [laughs] R— right next to the mic!

Sydnee: Like, "What are you doing?"

Rileigh: Little plastic— plastic jingly things. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I'm sorry.

Taylor: Just providing some sound effects. I like that.

Rileigh: [laughs] Just some background.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: I'm trying— I need a fidget spinner. I'm trying not to pick my cuticles, and this— and I just pick things up and play with them. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: So, how we feelin'?

Taylor: Well...

Raleigh: I feel like it's Christmas.

Sydnee: Everybody excited?

Raleigh: I do— I am.

Taylor: Yeah, except I—[laughs]

Sydnee: Although I have to say—

Taylor: Sorry. Well, I was saying, it's Christmas but, like, instead of Santa Claus bringing you presents he, like, removes a rabid raccoon from your bed. [laughs]
Like—

Raleigh: He takes the coal away.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yes. He didn't bring anything good, but he got rid of something real bad.

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh... although he said he's going to be back in some form.
So...

Taylor: What form will he take? [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't know. I saw— I don't wanna— I'll give credit where credit's due, 'cause I did not write this joke, but I saw John Hodgman tweet "Choose your form," from *Ghostbusters*.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: "Choose your form!" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Oh, God.

Sydnee: So I assume, as the Stay Puft marshmallow man, I assume.

Rileigh: Or, uh... Slimer?

Sydnee: Well... yeah. Have you seen *Ghostbusters*?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Okay. [laughs]

Rileigh: I'm just trying to think of all the ghosts. That seems like a good one. That would fit.

Sydnee: That is a good one. Slimer does fit, actually.

Rileigh: That fits pretty well.

Sydnee: 'Cause there are many scenes of Slimer, like, eating fast food, right?

Rileigh: Yeah. Like, all the McDonald's. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: But I— I actually think in the limited display of empathy that Slimer has in the movie *Ghostbusters* is actually more than we saw from Donald Trump in four years of Presidency.

Rileigh: Too much.

Taylor: So...

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It's unfair to Slimer. [laughs]

Sydnee: True. There is no Trump. Only Zuul. Moving forward.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Uh... and then he left to YMCA.

Taylor: That... oh.

Sydnee: He can't— does he know— he can't... hmm. Anyway. [laughs]

Taylor: I don't know.

Sydnee: [laughs] Does he— does he just hear that first "Young man, there's no need to feel down," and think, "Aw, thanks." [laughs]

Raleigh: "Thanks, guys."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: It is—

Sydnee: What is that? [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Is he trying to reclaim it from, uh— from the gays? Does he know it was made for the gays? [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I don't— I don't think he knows... much of anything. Except that he'll be back in some form.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: [sarcastically] Please don't start another political party. Please don't—

Raleigh: [sarcastically] Please don't.

Sydnee: No! No, stop, come back. [laughs]

Raleigh: Definitely don't want that. [laughs]

Sydnee: Don't do that! [laughs] Uh, anyway, so... I assume the house is being thoroughly cleansed.

Taylor: [laughs] Somebody has sent in the exorcist. [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Raleigh: They did have to send in the ghostbusters.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yes. Who's currently in there right now.

Sydnee: That's what— all— all I could think of— I've been looking half the morning for a GIF of the scene in *Practical Magic* where they're sweeping out the remnants of, you know, the evil spirit at the end, and I just... for some reason nobody, uh, wanted to make that GIF, I guess.

Raleigh: Mike Pence's phantom is still hanging around somewhere in there like, "I wasn't as bad as him, right on that very last day! Give me a job!"

[beeping]

Sydnee: Yeah, I think that's— I think that's totally what Mitch McConnell was trying to pull there at the end, like—

Raleigh: That too, yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: "I knew it all along! I was on the right side of this one! From the beginning, I was just... it was a spy thing! It was a— I was a spy on the inside."

Taylor: I just wanted to make him feel comfortable enough to reveal himself... for four years.

Sydnee: So that on literally the last day of his Presidency I would... say... anything. [laughs]

Raleigh: I think he actually might be a ghost, is the thing. Did you see what his hands and his whole look a while back?

Sydnee: Yeah, I remember that.

Raleigh: And then he came back and was fine? What if he's just been, like, a ghost this whole time.

Sydnee: I didn't know if that was from— there was that, uh— he fell, and I didn't know if that was from that fall, and then... I don't know. Like, my doctor brain immediately was like, "Hm, perhaps he's on a blood thinner and we didn't know that."

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I— I don't know.

Rileigh: I just thought the best part was everyone had these horrible pictures of his purple hands, and he was like, "I don't know what you're talking about. Everything's fine!" [laughs]

Sydnee: It was weird not to just say that.

Rileigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, "Well, I'm on a blood thinner and I fell, and so now I have some bruising."

It was weird not— I mean, well, and I don't even know that that's true. That was my doctor theory. This is what doctors do for fun.

Rileigh: Sure.

Sydnee: We see things on TV and try to diagnose them. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: That's always fun.

Taylor: Well, it was— it was a moment of, like, "Oh wow, we've been gaslit for four years." When it was like, "Oh, Joe Biden sprained his ankle playing with his dog, so he's gonna get checked out at the hospital."

I'm like, "They're telling us? They're— they told us?!" [laughs] Oh.

Sydnee: And wasn't it weird when he didn't come on TV afterwards and say, "The doctors told me it was the most beautiful ankle they've ever seen. It's the biggest and best ankle that we've ever had. It's gonna be beautiful. It's a— it's an ankle that's gonna make America great again."

Taylor: And then he, like, awkwardly held it up in the air so everybody could cheer for his ankle. Yeah, I was—

[all laugh]

Taylor: —really happy about that.

Sydnee: And then looked directly into an eclipse.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I forgot about that. I saw a thread on Twitter of all the best moments, like, best of of Trump's Presidency, and it was just all the stupid stuff he'd done. And I forgot he looked [through laughter] directly into the eclipse.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: Somebody posted that clip of him putting— like, when he's supposed to be handing candy out to kids on Halloween and the kid comes up in the big inflatable minion costume and he just put a candy bar on the kid's head and laughs at him?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: And then Melania does the same. Because they aren't— they have no humanity within them. [through laughter] They don't even know how to interact with a child.

[all laughs]

Sydnee: I can't. Oh, it's not funny. But it is.

Taylor: No.

Rileigh: Remember when he walked up the stairs of Air Force One with toilet paper on the bottom of his shoe?

Taylor: [groans]

Sydnee: Did that really happen?

Rileigh: Yeah. Or, like, when it was raining and he had the umbrella and he just left it open outside the door of the airplane. Just left it sitting out there. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Oh, I do remember that. I do remember that. Like, who does that?

Rileigh: [sighs] Man.

Sydnee: I still can't get over that we let for four years— when he finishes— it was reported that when he finishes with, like, a document or something that he's reading or, like, whatever, he tears it and throws it on the floor.

And, like, there was just— there were people whose job it was at the White House to, like, run around with scotch tape and reassemble the doc— 'cause you're supposed to save everything for, like, historical record, and he would just, like, rip things and throw them on the ground. Who does that?! [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Why did— why did they let him do that?

Sydnee: I don't— I mean— [stammers] I don't know! [laughs] I don't know! Like, there's the question, right? For everything. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah, yeah.

Taylor: I just— [sighs] [laughs] I don't— yeah. I mean, I don't know what the— the next four years are gonna entail but man, I did not think this day was gonna come. [laughs]

Rileigh: You know another wild and crazy thing, uh, Trump tried to do while he was in office?

Sydnee: Hm.

Rileigh: Was ban a social media—

Taylor: Ah, that's true.

Sydnee: Oh, that's true. Hey, this is good. This is good.

Rileigh: Yeah, thank you. He tried to ban TikTok.

Sydnee: He sure did.

Taylor: Don't—

Rileigh: And—

Taylor: Oh.

Rileigh: Just— no, go ahead.

Taylor: I was gonna say, don't you love the irony that instead, TikTok banned him? [laughs]

Rileigh: Yes. Precisely.

Sydnee: Everything did, right?

Rileigh: Everything did.

Sydnee: Did everything?

Taylor: Pinterest banned him! [laughs]

Rileigh: Pinterest, Spotify.

Taylor: You cannot make collections of low-resolution JPEGs of your favorite salads anymore!

Sydnee: [laughs] And you— do you think they took down all his boards with, like, "Things I love about Fall," with pictures of, like, scarves and pumpkins and leaves? [laughs]

Rileigh: I hope those are archived for historical purposes.

Sydnee: I assume he made those too, right? [laughs]

Rileigh: Right, yes. Um, no. Uh, TikTok said, "No thanks. You cannot ban us. Because we are still actually in the United States." [laughs] Um— uh, but yeah, he did try to ban TikTok several times and said he was going to several times and, like, put weird countdowns on it? Said, like, "Okay, 30 days, that's it." So then of course all the TikTok teens were like, "Oh my gosh! This is it! Only TikTok for 20 more days!"

And then it just never— never happened. It's always been there.

Sydnee: I didn't— I never used TikTok enough to, like— to have— I knew when those things were happening, and then I would look and be like, "Has it been 30 days?" And then, like, look at my TikTok and go, "Well, it's still there, so... I wonder what happened with that." [laughs]

Rileigh: "What's up with that?"

Sydnee: I don't know. I still have TikTok. I still barely understand it, but I have it.

Rileigh: I— I— my—

Taylor: I think it was really good for TikTok honestly, because I know a lot of people that downloaded it thinking, like, "Well, I better get it before the app isn't available anymore." So it probably helped their numbers! [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it was— was it in specific retaliation for all the TikTok teens who bought tickets to his rally—

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: —and then didn't show and made him look like a loser?

Rileigh: He says no. He says it's because the app, uh, was created in China, and they were going to get our information somehow through this app. And, like, if

you have any understanding of TikTok at all, the kind of stuff people are posting on there— it is not any, like, important national security secret that any other country would wanna get their hands on. No one anywhere would want this information. It's just a bunch of kids dancing. That's it!

Sydnee: You can— you can see, uh, people dancing, and then I guess if what they really want to know about us is how little we understand baking that we tend to try to make a lot of things in mugs and then call them revolutionary.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. And we put a lot of weird foods together.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Um... that's it.

Sydnee: Now, I guess you could learn that a lot of people don't like to wear masks, and a lot of other people like to film people not wearing masks. That is something that I see frequently on TikTok.

Raleigh: Yeah. That is something you could learn, um, from TikTok. Also, Claudia Conway's on there, and very popular.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: So maybe that was part of it. I don't know.

Sydnee: That situation is getting bad.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um... I do feel bad for Claudia Conway.

Sydnee: I do too.

Raleigh: But she is very good at TikTok, when she's making, like, not sad TikToks.

Taylor: Yeah, it's a— it's a messed-up silver lining, but I'm glad that she has some form of technology that's allowing her to present her situation.

Sydnee: Yeah, and hopefully get help.

Rleigh: Yeah. Um, but yes, the TikTok teens are so powerful, they bought millions of tickets online. Well, not bought. Like, saved for free, millions of tickets online to one of Trump's rallies, and then didn't show up. Made him look like a big dummy, 'cause he thought he was gonna have all these people there.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs] They punked him.

Rleigh: [laughs] They punked him! They made it so easy, though. All you had to do was go online and put in, like, a phone number, and then you have a ticket for free. Obviously people were gonna do that.

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: And that is not, like— that was something that I felt like every Trump rally— it would go around on my, like, email chains that I'm on for, like, the different charities and stuff. Like, "Oh, we should all do this!" But it never really amounted to much. But man, then the TikTok teens got it and they're like, "Nah, nah, this is how it's done."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rleigh: Yeah. So, um... for those of you that may not have TikTok, it is a social media app, um, made for up to 60 second short videos. Um, that's it. That's, like, the whole platform is just videos. It's kind of like Vine, if you ever had Vine, except more long form videos instead of the six second maximum like on Vine.

Um, it's been around for several years, but it became very popular right around the beginning of quarantine, and a little bit before. Um, over a year ago. Just because I think so many people were inside all the time. It was like, "Well, I'm running out of things to do. Might as well check out what TikTok is."

Sydnee: Now, I have— my TikTok— and I've never made one, I just look at them— because— can I— I will confess to you both why I haven't made one. Well, one, I'm not really sure what to do.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Justin keeps telling me— like, I'll say something about, like, science or vaccines, and he'll be like, "You should make that into a TikTok. That's the kind of thing you could make into a TikTok and, like, share that, and that would be helpful to people, and people— that's what people do." And there are a lot of doctor-y, science-y people out there doing that kind of thing.

But my worry is, I don't really know how to actually, like, logistically make it, and I'm afraid that...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm? [snorts quietly]

Sydnee: ... I'll, like— once you record it, is it just there? Like, can you stop it? Do you get— is there a send button? I don't know how that happens—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —and I was afraid that, like, I would record something and it'd be, like, a first draft, and then I'd be, like, "Oh, I don't like that." But it's too late. Like, then it's there.

Raleigh: Syd. Syd—

Sydnee: And I assume you can delete it. But then it's like, why did— "Well, why did she delete that? What's she hiding?"

And it's like, what, do I just say, "Oh, it was my first take and I didn't know that it would be published right a—"

Raleigh: Have you ever used any social media ever?

Sydnee: Twitter.

Raleigh: Okay. And when you tweet something, does it tweet as soon as you finish typing?

Sydnee: No, but—

Raleigh: You have to hit the post button.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [through laughter] You have— you have to hit the post button!

Sydnee: So can you make a video and, like, watch it a couple times and make sure that it's what you want, and then send it?

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: Did you—

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: Did you attempt to do one and you were confused? Or are you just completely without even attempting it, like, "It might be hard, though. [robotically] What if there isn't a button?" [laughs]

Sydnee: Well—

Raleigh: "What if it just goes?"

Sydnee: Well, that was my— not that it would be hard but that, like, what if I do it and then it goes out there and it's, like, one where I accidentally— like, I mess it up and I say a curse or something. And then, like— then that's out there.

Raleigh: Now, curses are allowed on TikTok.

Sydnee: Well, but I don't— that's not— you know.

Raleigh: Now, see, there's a plus—

Sydnee: I don't. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: What— what—

Raleigh: —there's a plus button at the bottom of TikTok, and it brings up your camera. And then you can press the "Start Recording" button.

Sydnee: Uh-huh?

Rileigh: And then when you start recording you can also stop recording.

Sydnee: Now you're recording me.

Rileigh: But then you can, like, move and record something else, and you can stop it. But then you can move and record something else, and you can stop it. And then there's a check button, and then you get to see it again, but then you hit "Next" and then you get to make a caption.

Sydnee: Oh.

Rileigh: And then you can post it. There's, like, three steps in between recording [holding back laughter] and being posted.

Taylor: I— I— doesn't— I mean, your husband has made TikToks. I don't—

Rileigh: He has made many TikToks. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, okay. And I realize that I could've just asked him this. Um, and it wasn't like a reluctance to do so. I will fully admit that I have not prioritized this very highly.

Rileigh: That's fair.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Um, because the only time we really get to just, like, talk about whatever we want to is after the kids are asleep at night, and so, like, I try to really optimize that time, and I guess TikTok— how to make a TikTok just didn't float to the top.

Rileigh: What if your bonding time after the kids are asleep is you make TikToks together?

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Well, we could do that.

Rileigh: That's lovely. That's what [through laughter] so many TikTok couples do.

Sydnee: Do they?

Raleigh: All day, every day.

Sydnee: Are there TikTok couples?

Raleigh: Yes. Oh my gosh, yes.

Taylor: 'Cause that's the thing that I— I understand, like, how people make money on YouTube. I understand that there are YouTube celebrities. There are ads and stuff that clearly pay them. How do people become famous with these little baby videos? And there are no ads. I don't understand!

Raleigh: Uh, so from what I understand, at first you could not make any money off of TikTok. Unless, like, there were some companies that would do sponsored posts, so, like, hire someone famous on TikTok to make a TikTok about their product or including their product or whatever, um, and pay them for that. But directly through the app, you couldn't get any money.

I don't understand how people get so famous. Like, I really don't. I don't know how the algorithm works that decides, like, what gets put on your For You page, which is, like, the, you know, opening page that shows you all the popular videos. I don't know how they decide what gets put on that. Um, that's a whole, you know, algorithm goin' on there.

Sydnee: I think, like, Hank Green could explain that.

Raleigh: Hank Green definitely could explain that.

Sydnee: Yeah. I think he has done that. Like, I think he has—

Raleigh: [through laughter] I'm sure he has, actually.

Sydnee: —not just become really popular on TikTok but also, like, talked about how that— I think he—

Raleigh: Which is really funny.

Sydnee: —ask Hank Green. Don't ask us. [laughs]

Rileigh: Hank Green. Um, no. But he, uh— I think it's really funny. He started as a YouTuber making educational videos about science and stuff, and that's how I knew who he was, was through YouTube from a long time ago, and now all the younger Gen Z— Gen Zers just know him as the guy from TikTok, which is very funny to me. Um, but he makes a lot of science TikToks, you know?

Sydnee: I, uh— Justin showed me one as an example of what I could do if I wanted to do science TikToks. I have to figure out how they put words on the screen.

Rileigh: That's just after the fact, you can hit "Add Text." And then you type.

Sydnee: 'Cause it— 'cause sometimes they'll point and a word'll appear up there.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah, I think— it's all just— it's literally all right there in the app, Syd.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Okay. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: It's in the step that's in between the filming it and the posting it. There's a step where you can edit it. And there's a button that says "Text." And you click it and you type—[laughs]

Taylor: I'm having a hard time wrapping my head around that you did not interact with it at all to try to figure out how easy it was. You just theorized, "[slurring] Maybe it's hard!" [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I just got scared of it! I didn't wanna— it's scary to put— you have to be so careful, what you put out into the world, you know? And...

Rileigh: But now—

Sydnee: It's just scary! I don't know!

Rileigh: Now, Syd—

Sydnee: Like, I understand how to tweet, and I understand how to Facebook, although nobody's on Facebook anymore, so that doesn't really matter. That's just so I can, like, send things that have to do with astrology that I think mom will like to mom. That's the main function of Facebook for me is, like, "Look at this, mom. It's, like, old houses as zodiac signs."

And mom's like, "I love that!" That's, like, the main—

Raleigh: "That's so you!"

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs] That's the main function of Facebook for me, now.
[laughs]

Raleigh: Um, but now there is a creator fund on TikTok that if you make— if you post a video and it gets X amount of views, for every 1000, 10,000 views— also something Hank Green has explained before— you get this many dollars.

Sydnee: Ah.

Raleigh: So now, the people— like, for example, Charlie D'Amelio, or Addison Rae, the two most popular currently TikTokers, both teenage girls, both younger than me, and they make so much money. They make, like, 35 to 40,000 dollars every time they post a video.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And they both post, like, four or five videos a day. 'Cause, I mean, they're only 60 seconds. It doesn't take, like, a lot of time to set up and film a video.

Sydnee: Sure.

Raleigh: Most of the time, they're doing a 60 second dance, so they learn the dance, they film it, they post a minute of it, and they make 40,000 dollars.
[laughs quietly]

[pause]

Raleigh: But TikTok created this creator fund—

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: —um, once they started making so much money with the app, and the app started becoming popular, so that I think, from what I understand, the most popular creators would stay on the app and make money from that, and not transition to something like YouTube and take their audience with them there where they could make money there. Um, so yeah.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: I— I— I'm still kind of digesting 40,000 dollars for a 60 second video of you doing a dance that someone else made up.

Raleigh: I mean, she— Charlie—

Sydnee: Certainly to a song that you didn't write.

Raleigh: Certainly— yes, a dance that someone else made up to a song that you didn't write. She has a 106.5 million followers. She's, like, 16.

Sydnee: Is she the world's best dancer?

Raleigh: No. No.

Sydnee: Because that would be the other thing you could bring to that— no?

Raleigh: I mean, she's a good dancer. Like, it's not just like she started dancing on TikTok. She was dancing before that, and can actually dance. But if you see a TikTok dance, it's not necessarily something that requires, like... training. It's lots of, like, arm movements.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Like, lots of, like, upper body— upper body movements, um, that get shared among all the TikTok dances that you just kind of put in different orders to the different songs.

Sydnee: Is it flossing? 'Cause I know that one.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: Okay.

Rileigh: I mean, you could floss on TikTok, and I think a video of you flossing—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: —just silently looking at the camera [laughs] would actually do very well on TikTok! [laughs]

Taylor: I mean, but it's— it's— it's sort of a momentum game, yeah? Like, you... those people that kind of got early notice, then they get pushed up in the algorithm more, and then they get more people to see them, and then that just kind of snowballs... into 30,000 dollars a video. Wow! [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Right. And, I mean, it's kind of weird, because you look at someone like Charlie— who I'll just use as an example, because she is the most popular TikToker, um, who has 106 million followers on TikTok, but if you look at, like, Twitter or Instagram, that does not necessarily carry over to 106 million followers on Twitter and Instagram.

So, I think the followers you get on TikTok, lots of people that have hundreds or millions of followers on TikTok do not carry that over to other social media. It is very specific to, like— it's not like a YouTuber where you follow them and you subscribe them 'cause you like them, so you follow them on Instagram and Twitter 'cause, like, you like watching their life or, like, you enjoy their brand or whatever they do. TikTok I think is more so, like, very specific, "I follow this person on TikTok because they post these short dance videos that are super trendy," or whatever.

Sydnee: That's true. I can vouch for, like— well, although part of who I follow in TikTok is that Charlie figured out how to follow people on TikTok.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: Sure.

Sydnee: And just, like, got in my phone and added some stuff in there, so. Anytime, like, somebody doing makeup comes on I'm like, "Charlie... " [laughs]

Raleigh: She— "Boop!" [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh—[laughs] they've liked a lot of stuff. Um, I wanna— I wanna get into some of the TikToks in particular that we each like, dislike, engage with, whatever, and the ones I have questions about.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

I want to talk to you all today... I just wanna talk to you all today.

Sydnee: Okay. [laughs]

Raleigh: No, I wanna talk to you all about my hair today. [laughs quietly] Um, so we need to real talk. We need to just sit down for a second. Just real talk. Turn the mics off.

Taylor: Oh. Okay.

Raleigh: No one's listening.

Taylor: Bye, everybody.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] Bye.

Sydnee: Goodbye.

Raleigh: If you don't love your hair, you need to leave the hair care products that you are using back in 2020. Leave 'em back there in that year, that year we never talk about again.

Sydnee: We never speak of.

Raleigh: We never speak of it again. If you don't love your hair, you need to try Function of Beauty, because it is dedicated to being the world leader in customizable beauty, offering precise formulations for your hair's specific needs.

And it's very fun, because when you go on Function of Beauty, you just take a little quiz, and I love taking little online quizzes, and it asks you questions about your hair length, your hair type, maybe your goals for your hair. Like, I know for me, I took the quiz, you know, I have short hair, it's kinda thin. Um, I want volume, or I want shiny hair, or heat protection, or color protection, all those kinds of things you pick that you want, and then you get to choose a color and a fragrance! So you get to choose what you want it to smell like.

All the smells are very delightful. Um, mine smells like lavender, and it's purple. Um, and every ingredient in every Function of Beauty product is vegan and cruelty free, and they never use sulfates or parabens, and you can also go completely silicon-free. So you feel good about what you're using, and it makes your hair look good. Um, so never buy off the shelf just to be disappointed ever again.

All you have to do is go to functionofbeauty.com/buffering to take your quiz and save 20% on your first order, and that applies to their full range of customized hair, skin, and body products. So go to functionofbeauty.com/buffering to let them know you heard about it from our show and get 20% off your order. That's functionofbeauty.com/buffering.

Sydnee: I wanna talk about Betabrand dress pant yoga pants.

Raleigh: Whoa!

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: Uh, that's right. I've talked about 'em before. I'm gonna talk about 'em again, 'cause I know a lot of people are still working from home, uh, but you— on those Zoom calls you gotta dress up, you gotta look professional, you know. You gotta look like you're ready to get down to business. I've started going back a little bit in person more to work, less telehealth, more in person health now that I am, um, vaccinated and immune.

Taylor: Woo hoo!

Sydnee: Fully.

Raleigh: Ooh!

Sydnee: And, uh— so I wanna be comfortable. You wanna be comfortable at your home, you wanna be comfortable at your work, but you gotta look good. You gotta look like you know what you're doin', and Betabrand does that with their dress pant yoga pants that are made of wrinkle-resistant stretch knit fabric.

They feel like you're wearing yoga pants, like your favorite workout pants, but they're not. They're dress pants. They look like— nobody would ever know how comfortable. It's your little secret. You're walking around in complete comfort, and nobody has to know.

And, uh, that's the kind of expertise that Betabrand brings to all their work wear. It's functional, it's comfortable, and it looks great. And I've been a fan of Betabrand dress pant yoga pants for a long they're always my go-to work pants, and I would highly recommend 'em.

So, right now, our listeners can get 25% off their first order when you go to betabrand.com/buffering. That's 25% off your first order for a limited time at betabrand.com/buffering. Find out why people are ditching typical work pants for Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants by going to betabrand.com/buffering for 25% off.

Taylor: Alright. We also have a Jumbotron this week.

Raleigh: Woop, woop, woop!

Taylor: Yeah! This is—

Sydnee: Yay!

Taylor: It's from a— from, I'd say, friend of the show, Joe Whitaker, uh, for his wife, Sarah Whitaker. And it says, "Happy birthday to my awesome COVID-fighting and now vaccinated wife. You spent this year being a hero—"

Sydnee: Yay!

Taylor: Yes, good job on that. Uh, "You spent this year being a hero to a bunch of people in the emergency department, but you were a hero to me first. I love you and I'm proud of you every day."

Sydnee: Aww.

Raleigh: Aww.

Taylor: "Happy birthday."

Sydnee: Aww, happy birthday!

Raleigh: Happy birthday!

Sydnee: That's fantastic.

Raleigh: How delightful.

Taylor: Happy birthday, Sarah.

Sydnee: Well, have a wonderful birthday. Yeah, what a sweet message.

So, uh, I wanna talk about the kind of TikToks that— I feel like we might all interact with different Tik— like, TikToks might be different. You know what I mean?

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, and I mean, your TikTok— if you hear someone say, like, "I'm on... true crime TikTok. I'm on theater kid TikTok." This means that you've been on TikTok so much they have, like, desig— like, created your feed to be very specific to the things you like, and the videos you watch many times, and the videos you skip past, and things like that. So, now I have used TikTok so much my For You page is very specifically curated to my taste. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I— this makes me wonder about me.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, because... [laughs quietly] I— I get a lot of, uh, TikToks that are people getting thrown out of grocery stores for not wearing masks.

Taylor: That sounds right.

Sydnee: And I don't know—

Raleigh: That fits with your brand.

Sydnee: Yeah, I don't— I was— I was gonna say I don't know what that says about me, but I feel bad, maybe, about it? I mean, don't get me wrong. I'm glad that people are being removed from grocery stores for not wearing masks. But also, what is wrong with me that I like to watch it? [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Taylor, I need to know. As the one of us that didn't have TikTok until this episode, and for this episode—

Sydnee: Yes!

Raleigh: —what is your For You page like? What is your experience? What are you seeing?

Taylor: Well, I guess because I kind of understood how it worked, I recognized that I had the opportunity to cultivate the TikTok that I desire.

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: So, I believe the first term that I searched was "bird."

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: Bird TikTok is good. There are just a lot of good birds, doin' bird stuff, takin' baths, sayin' naughty words. Bird TikTok is solid. Then my next word was "raccoon." Uh...

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Okay?

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: Raccoon TikTok, also real good. A lot of friendly raccoons.

Raleigh: [laughs breathlessly]

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: A lot of good raccoon stories. Uh, from there, well, I went to "cat." You know, pretty obvious. Uh, and basically—

Raleigh: Animal TikTok.

Taylor: —it's all animal— it's all animals, and then I— I did look at bartending TikTok 'cause I figured I should know what that is, and I didn't like that. Um... no.

Sydnee: No?

Taylor: That was not— that was, uh... it seems like it's kind of all of the worst kind of bartenders. A dark mirror of bartending reflected back at me. [laughs] Just like, dudes throwing bottles around and, like, telling stories about how they helped some guy get laid at his bar. Like, it— that—

Sydnee: Ohh.

Raleigh: Ew.

Taylor: —it was, like, a lot of— yeah. So then I went back to the animals. I think that's it. I looked at, like, cosplay too, and that was nice too. A lot of people, like, dressed in cosplay doing duets that don't really make sense with the characters, but that's fine. They seem to be really enjoying themselves, so that makes me happy.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I really enjoy— I like, like, food TikTok. But I like when people are making something and telling me what it is. What is the thing— and I've noticed this with, like, food, and it sounds like maybe similar with drinks, Tey, and also with makeup I've seen this, where you're doing something but you're just telling some completely unrelated story.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um—

Sydnee: What is that?

Raleigh: So, sometimes people will have accounts where they will take, like, what they think is an interesting or, like, a cliffhanger type story that you could

split up into two videos, um, that they find on Reddit or Twitter or someone sends them. Most of the time it's not theirs. And they record the voiceover of them telling the story, and then they film themselves doing whatever it is they do. Sometimes it's making food or doing makeup, um, making coffee, and that's just—

Sydnee: Yeah, I've seen that.

Rileigh: —that's just honestly because you, from what I would guess, people keep watching because they start telling this story that's like, "You will not believe what happens in this story." And you have to go then watch the second part, because it always breaks up into two parts, and you always have to go to their account and find the second video.

Sydnee: I never do that.

Rileigh: I always do. I have to know how it ends.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: But also, like, then, when people are watching this or listening to this story, they're also, like, watching what you're doing, so if it's something who's doing really cool makeup, I might start watching for the story and go to their second video for the story, but then once they've gotten me to go to their page and seek out the second video, then I'm on their page and I'm scrolling through all their videos, and now I'm looking at all their other stuff, and now I'm following them.

Sydnee: I guess that makes sense. 'Cause my initial inclination was like, I don't know anything about makeup, and so you could be telling me what that is you just did, or what are you putting on your face. Like, why are you spraying your face? When does that happen in makeup? I don't understand these things. You could tell me this, but you're not. You're talking about something else, and then I just swipe up and I'm done.

Rileigh: Sure.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Sure, um, I mean—

Taylor: [simultaneously] Yeah.

Raleigh: —you might not be their target demographic. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydney: That's fair. That's fair. [laughs]

Taylor: I would agree with that, though, 'cause I've seen those kind of videos on, like, YouTube too, where someone'll do their makeup but then tell you, like, a true crime story. And I'm like, I just like— I like both of these things. I don't know if I like them together, and it's maybe just my brain's not capable of, like, following two [laughs] unrelated things happening. Like, I'm hearing this and I'm seeing this, and I don't like it. [laughs quietly]

Sydney: I will say that, um, some of the— some of the food things— coffee is one that you brought up. Uh, everyone on TikTok is putting too much stuff in their coffee.

Raleigh: Let people make their coffee how they wanna make their coffee!

Sydney: [laughs quietly] I'm always watching and thinking about how sweet it would be. That is usually my reaction to most of the stuff I'm watching, whether it be coffee or food, a baked good, or a cocktail. Taylor, I have seen people make cocktails that they roll the rim of the glass in, like, canned frosting. And all I can think is, like, "Listen, people. This is a lot of sugar. This is too sweet, and you've gotta balance that sweet with something else. And none of these things I'm seeing are properly balanced. You need something spicy, something savory, something salty. Why is it just sweet?"

Taylor: Yeah. I— I— I— you know, I don't— I don't like to judge how other people like to drink. I think as long as you're— it makes you happy, that's fine, you know? But I will say, there was a higher proportion of very sweet, very... uh, not for me looking cocktails on there. Um, but, uh, yeah.

Sydney: Yes.

Taylor: I guess. I don't know. But then I also know it's for younger people, so I feel like college— like, college kids, that's probably like— there was a guy that

just made a lot of stuff with White Claw and I'm like, yeah, I get— this— this is not for me, but this is for somebody. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah, that's the thing is, like, the average age of the person watching these, like, drink videos, food videos, is probably too young to be drinking. [laughs] But also probably, like, uh, a teenager that's not gonna really bake anything they're seeing but is just like, "Aw man, doesn't that look so good?"

Sydnee: See, I—

Rileigh: [crosstalk]

Sydnee: —but for me, at my age, that falls into the realm of, like, stunt eating and stunt drinking and that kind of thing where it's like, if I drink something with that much sugar in it and alcohol, I am going to get sick. [laughs] 'Cause I'm too old for that combo. So I can't go there anymore. [laughs]

Rileigh: This is why I think you both respectively would be very good at TikTok. Sydnee, I would— I think you would become so popular. This basically what Hank—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: —this is basically what Hank Green does, but a little bit different. I think if you just reacted to these videos— 'cause you can, like, duet someone's video, right? Like—

Sydnee: I have seen that, yes.

Rileigh: —there are videos going on on the right, and then you're making your own video on the left, reacting to whatever they're doing or doing something with them, whatever. If you just reacted to these videos as, like, an adult on TikTok, like, "What are you doing? Why are you adding this much sugar? This wouldn't even taste good with that. What is— you're not even putting anything in to balance it out?"

People'd go crazy. Taylor, if you made actual drinks on TikTok that people were like, "Oh, you don't need to put White Claw in everything?"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Or, like, "Oh, you don't need to add gummy sour candy [through laughter] to everything to make it taste good?"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I— you know, but the thing is is— I can only imagine that people are doing that, it's just not what floats to the top of the algorithm, you know? Like, that was— I was bummed to not see that up there, but I was like, "Well, this must be what the people want. I don't— I'm assuming. Or at least what the robot thinks people want." [laughs]

Rileigh: What the teens want. [laughs]

Sydnee: How does the— how does the robot know my politics so well? Because one thing that shocked me—

Rileigh: The robot does know your politics. [laughs]

Sydnee: —is the robot knew to show me, like, very left-leaning stuff pretty early. Like, the robot figured that out. And then, like, occasionally something would come up, like those duets you talked about, where it would be somebody, like, defending Trump. And I would immediately think, like, "Robot, you don't know me." But it's because it was a duet, and it was the person reacting. It was their video to the person defending Trump and, like, making faces and comments and stuff. But, like, the robot instantly knew how liberal I was. How did that happen?

Rileigh: Just the— the vibe. Your vibes.

Sydnee: [laughs] Is that what it is— like, it— I have never seen anything on there that was, like, MAGA. Never. [laughs]

Rileigh: I found— and this leads me into a very important part of TikTok that I don't know if you all will be aware of. If I asked you all what the Hype House was, would you know what that— what that is?

Taylor: I think I kinda know?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm?

Taylor: Is it a— is it an actual house where a bunch of TikTokers live?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. Yes.

Sydnee: I only know that because they had parties.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Uh, around New Years, I believe, or Christmas. Around the holidays, they had parties, and I saw the videos of their, like, crammed with people, I assume all giving each other coronavirus. Um, and yes. I was very angry— I was very angry about that. That's the only reason I know about their existence.

Rileigh: Yeah. So it's like how Jake Paul on YouTube tried to make a house of YouTubers that all would, like, make videos together and, you know, promote each other and make each other popular. That's what the Hype House was, except for TikTokers. So I don't know why they call it the Hype House, I don't think it's that great of a name—

Sydnee: [laughs] No.

Rileigh: —but it was just a bunch of TikTokers in LA living in this giant fancy mansion, having illegal COVID parties, a lot of them getting, like, you know, charged with breaking ordinances and fined and stuff, which is very delightful.

Um, but they— as a result, lots of people made, like, versions of this that aren't actual houses but accounts that are called, like... I don't know. There is one that's, like, the theater kid Hype House that's just a bunch of, like, popular quote, unquote "theater kid" TikTokers that all share an account, that all make videos on the same account to, like, get each other views. Um, but I accidentally at one point stumbled across the Republican Hype House.

Sydnee: Oh no.

Rileigh: That's a bunch of kids around my age and a little bit younger that are all... conservative, that make TikToks. And I just, like, was constantly scrolling for hours, I could not stop watching, even though it was making me so angry.

Sydnee: Oh no, I couldn't. I can't do that.

Raleigh: But then there are also ones— like, there was one that was, like, Gen Z for Biden, stuff like that, um, that are basically collaborative accounts with lots of people posting to get lots of views, um, so yeah. I don't know how the robot knows your politics, but I've had the same experience, because I've accidentally stumbled across the conservative side of TikTok too many times. Um, and it's just not shown me any of that.

Sydnee: That sounds— first of all, they stole the house thing from drag, didn't they?

Raleigh: I'm sure they did.

Sydnee: Yeah. I was gonna say that, one. Two, uh, that sounds like the worst house. The worst— the worst... I can't even...

Raleigh: They all went on a— they all went on a trip to the Bahamas.

Sydnee: Of course they did.

Raleigh: Like— like, two weeks ago.

Taylor: Ohh.

Sydnee: The privilege. The— they're just dripping. They're just oozing. Just, ugh. Ugh.

Raleigh: Um, yeah. Yeah.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: Uh, the other TikTok I will say— I get a lot of— well, one, I intentionally followed Kylie Brakeman on TikTok, and her TikToks are hilarious. And, like, uh, Sarah Cooper is funny. Those are hilarious. Like, I intentionally followed a couple people whose videos— whose TikToks had, um, migrated to Twitter via other people sharing them, and that's how I found them. So, Twitter helped me find some people.

Um, and then the shoe thing. I love the thing where someone's dressed one way, and then they throw a shoe... at the camera, and are dressed a different way. Uh, it started with a lot of, like, indigenous TikTok, like, a lot of traditional dress. That's where I started that, like, to find those, and then I realized that other people did it for other ways of dressing or outfits or whatever, and I really love that.

Raleigh: Yeah. The, uh, transitions that people do on TikTok, and utilize the ability to, like, time when your video's gonna stop with the music and start it and stop it and stuff like that, um, it baffles me. Like, there's a trend that I keep seeing currently where you, like, are sitting on the ground and you kinda flip your hair around in front of you, and then when you flip your hair back then you're in a different outfit and, like, you're wearing makeup and stuff.

Sydnee: Yes, I've seen that.

Raleigh: Um, or ones where you kind of kick your leg across the camera, and you're wearing something different. Um, I don't understand how people do it. It's very intimidating to me. Some people do wild things with it, and make it look like they're, like, pushing their head away, and then pulling it up, and... I don't understand how it works, but it is... it is very fascinating. I like that trend.

Taylor: Yeah. Like, seeing the creative trends that catch on, and everybody's interpretation of it, I think is really neat. Like, just, like, I don't know. Like, this morning there was, like, a waterfall filter thing, trend going on, where everybody was just making these pleasant, sort of blurry magical images, and I'm like, "This is nice!" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: "This is a pleasant corner of TikTok."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I like that, and I like the— the "Oh no" ones.

Raleigh: The "Oh no" ones are very good.

Sydnee: Oh, I do— I love the— I love the "Oh no" ones, and the girls love the "Oh no" ones, so.

Raleigh: Every once in a while, if you're walking around this house you'll just hear a tiny voice going, "[singing in a high pitched voice] Oh no! Oh no! Oh no, no, no, no, no!"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: They do. They do that when they, like, spill something or drop something now.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: They'll, like, act out a TikTok. [laughs]

Taylor: You know—

Raleigh: See, this is—[laughs] oh, this is what scares me, is that's, like, their whole growing up, like, social media. Like, they will grow up knowing TikTok and recreating TikToks, and that is a whole, like, subset of I guess Gen Z, I don't know. They're very young, but I don't know if we're in the same generation or not. That just baffles me, because I still feel like I don't know what I'm doing, and they are, you know, six and two years old, and they know what they're doing.

Taylor: It is kind of— when you think about it like, you know, how our generation was sort of the meme generation, you share a doofy image over and over again. But with TikTok, you kind of become the meme. Like, the meme is the idea, and the content is actually different. But— so you can actually act out a meme in real life. You are participating. It's interesting. It's a— it's a— it's a viral transition of ideas.

Sydnee: Ooh.

Raleigh: Ooh.

Sydnee: I mean, it's fun. Like, I like— I would honestly— this is gonna make me sound so old. The only reason I'm not on TikTok more, like, looking at it more, is that if I am, like, trying to get the kids to bed or if I am just playing with them and, like, they're playing together for, like, a blessed moment where I am not having to coordinate the play and I'm just sitting there, if I turn on TikTok, they hear it right away. Like, I have to— you know?

And they'll come running over and be like, "Are you on TikTok?!" Whereas, like, I can look at Twitter or Facebook, silently. That's the only issue I have is that unless I have my phone, like, muted, as soon as I pull the app up, there's noise happening, and so... [sighs]

Raleigh: Yeah. If I'm with either of them and any noise starts coming out of my phone at all they're both like, "Are you watching TikToks?"

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: "Do you have a TikTok?"

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I did— one of the random suggested things for me last night was cleaning TikTok.

Raleigh: Ooh.

Sydnee: Ooh.

Taylor: Where people just go into, like, a dirty bathroom and clean it, and that was— I— I— I did not know that was gonna be as good for me as it was. But... that was— that was nice. Just, here's a dirty thing, I made it clean. [laughs]

Sydnee: The cleaning and organizing TikToks are so satisfying.

Raleigh: Organizing TikTok, mmm.

Sydnee: You know the other TikToks I was surprised I love are when people start doing stuff with epoxy and resin.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] They're like, "I'm gonna— this is gonna take me forever, and I'm just pouring stuff, and you don't know what I'm doing. And then, like, I'm gonna, like... whatever, scrape away at it with— grind away at it for so long, and

the whole time you're gonna be like, 'What is this?' And then at the end you're like, 'Wow. [laughs] That's how that's made.'" Those— those get me.

Rileigh: Yeah. Those are good.

Sydnee: Those and puff pastry TikToks. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Puff pastry TikTok is good.

Sydnee: They do stuff with puff pastry. Okay. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: It seems like a really, like—[laughs] I didn't know what to expect, 'cause I hadn't been on it. I only saw what kind of trickles over on other people's pages or Twitter or whatever. Uh, and I don't know. I mean, it kinda seems like it's a— it is what you make it experience. Like, depending on what kind of media you interact with, that's what your TikTok is.

But ultimately, it's something that— I mean, it makes careers. I'm never against that. If you can make money off of something creative, that's great, and it also drives creativity. And, like, not just creativity but, like, communal creativity, which I think is really cool.

Rileigh: Yeah, for sure.

Sydnee: It'll be interesting to see what TikTok thinks I like once, like, the pandemic eventually someday is over and we don't have to wear masks all the time, and there aren't videos of people getting thrown out of stores for not wearing masks.

Rileigh: Your For You page is just going to be blank. It's just going to be a screen that says "We don't know."

Sydnee: "We don't know."

Rileigh: "We're sorry." [laughs]

Sydnee: "All we know is you don't like Donald Trump. [through laughter] That's the one thing we know for sure about you, somehow, is you don't like Donald Trump, founder of the Patriot Party." [laughs]

Rileigh: Jeez. Anyways!

Sydnee: Ohh.

Rileigh: Um, Sydnee—

Taylor: Well, you can always fill in the blank with some birds. I'm just sayin'.

Sydnee: That's true.

Rileigh: There you go. I need to get on bird TikTok.

Sydnee: I'm gonna try to make a TikTok.

Rileigh: Oh boy. Um... Sydnee, what's next?

Sydnee: Uh, next— if you all will indulge me, there is a book— I don't know how many people would be familiar with this. It is a book called *Weetzie Bat* by Francesca Lia Block. It is from 1989, but I discovered it in my teen years, so a little bit past that. And it became very important to me for... I still can't really articulate why this book meant so much to me. I've read it dozens of times. It's a short little read. Um, it's beautiful, and I hope you two will enjoy it and talk to me about it next week!

Rileigh: I'm very excited.

Taylor: Alright!

Sydnee: Maybe help me figure out why I love it so much.

Rileigh: We will do our best.

Taylor: Interesting.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Uh, well, thank you both.

Rileigh: Thank you all for indulging in TikTok with me.

Sydnee: No, I enjoyed it.

Taylor: I— yes. Absolutely.

Raleigh: Well, good. Good, good.

Sydnee: Uh, and thank you listeners, and we are going to go so that we can all... go watch... Joe Biden becoming President.

Raleigh: The inauguration, yes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Good luck, everyone. Today we will celebrate, tomorrow we'll get back to work.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Good luck.

Sydnee: Well, we've still got, like, 15 minutes or something. [laughs]

Raleigh: Sure. Yeah.

Taylor: Yes. No, yeah, that's a valid feeling. [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, alright. Well, thank you listeners. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. Um, and you should go to Maximumfun.org and listen to the podcasts. There are many. You'd love 'em. And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

[theme music plays in the background]

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

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

[pause]

Sydnee: May be our worst one yet. [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh no! [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] Oh no, no, no, no, no!

[all laugh]

[theme music ends]

Speaker One: Welcome back to Fireside Chat on KMAX. With me in studio to take your calls is the dopest duo on the West Coast, Oliver Wang and Morgan Rhodes. Go ahead, caller.

Speaker Two: Hey, uh, I'm looking for a music podcast that's insightful and thoughtful but, like, also helps me discover artists and albums that I've never heard of?

Morgan: Yeah, man. Sounds like you need to listen to *Heat Rocks*. Every week, myself, and I'm Morgan Rhodes, and my cohost here, Oliver Wang, talk to influential guests about a canonical album that has changed their lives.

Oliver: Guests like Moby, Open Mike Eagle, talking about albums by Prince, Joni Mitchell, and so much more.

Speaker Two: Yo! What's that show called again?

Morgan: *Heat Rocks*: deep dives into hot records.

Oliver: Every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[static]

[chord]

Maximumfun.org.
Comedy and Culture.
Artist Owned.

Listener Supported.