

## sStill Buffering 246: "Weetzie Bat" (1989)

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[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Sydnee:** Well, how's everybody doin' today?

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's good. I—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —I have to pee, and that's the energy I've brought to this podcast.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Rileigh:** We have been— we have been sitting here just pre-recording chatting for, hmm, an hour now.

**Taylor:** You could've peed at any time.

**Rileigh:** Did— did it just hit you?

**Sydnee:** Mmm. Sometimes I like to— I think I've said this before. I like to bring this energy to the show.

**Rileigh:** The pee-holding energy?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** It's actually not good to hold your pee. Nobody should do that.

**Raleigh:** I didn't think so.

**Taylor:** No!

**Sydnee:** [singing] When you have to go potty... stop. And go right away—  
[normally] do you guys not know this one?

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] No.

**Taylor:** I have somehow missed this— this, uh—

**Raleigh:** I don't know this hit.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [singing] Flush and wash and be on your way.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] Well, now, Syd, you know the song and everything. How did you not— how'd you— how'd you— how'd you mess this up?

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I don't know. When you— between my, uh— it's really bad, because you shouldn't hold it. You should go when you have to go. But between, like, residency and the— the fact that, like, anybody can tell you in residency there are long stretches where you just have to pee and you just have to not pee at that moment, and you just wait.

Um, and then having children, when there are long stretches where, like, I need an— I need an adult. [laughs] I need an adult to come to the room where the kids are so I can go pee and leave the room where the kids are. I just— it's just my second nature now.

**Rileigh:** Have you considered... bringing the children to the bathroom with you.

**Sydnee:** Oh, I've done it many times.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Okay. I was gonna say.

**Sydnee:** I have— no, I—

**Rileigh:** They can just, like, sit there on their— you know, reading their book or watching their iPad. You pee. It's all— everyone's happy.

**Sydnee:** I would— I would say there are many, uh— many parents, many caregivers out there who have peed while holding a child before. Um, perhaps a sleeping one that you are desperate not to wake up. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** You know, it's not— it's not comparable exactly, but I feel like from all of my years in the restaurant industry, which very much— you know, I'll be working and I need to pee, and I know I need to pee, but then we're busy, and then it's, like, three hours later and I finally have a break and I don't need to pee anymore. And I'm like, "Where did it go?" Uh—

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** That's not good!

**Taylor:** It's not good!

**Rileigh:** It went back.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, it can't!

**Taylor:** It gave up! It knocked on the door and it said, "Nah, no one's home? Okay!" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** No. It can't—

**Taylor:** "I'm gonna go hang out with your blood. Who knows?" Uh...

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** But, see, now that— I mean, that's one of the few good things, I guess, of being out of work, is it's this wonderful luxury of, like, "Oh my gosh, I have to pee and I'm going to immediately. That's so nice." I— I am always within, like, five feet of my bathroom, which is weird, but also, I can pee whenever I want. That's nice. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, your bladder thanks you. Um, 'cause it can't go back, so that's not great.

**Raleigh:** No?

**Taylor:** [laughs] It can't change its mind?

**Raleigh:** Apparently it can!

**Taylor:** Where is it— does it go to sleep? [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** No. I mean, I guess after a while maybe your bladder just gives up. If your bladder gets too distended, it can get, like, an overdistention injury where it has trouble, like, expelling all the urine, and you can have some urinary retention later— this is boring.

**Raleigh:** That's fun.

**Taylor:** Yeah, alright.

**Sydnee:** I don't wanna talk about this on our podcast!

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] This is fun to talk about.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Just straight into the pee talk. Oh yeah!

**Sydnee:** Uh, I wanna tell you— do you know what— um, Justin committed a food crime against our children this morning.

**Raleigh:** Oh no.

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** Uh, he made them— he saw a video about, uh, ice cream French toast.

**Raleigh:** That's not— okay. Sorry, go ahead.

**Taylor:** Tell me more! [laughs] I need more information.

**Sydnee:** What you— what you do is you take some ice cream, vanilla is the example given, like, that's the easiest thing to do. Take some vanilla ice cream and melt it. Like, pop a little bit in the microwave.

**Raleigh:** So it's like liquid.

**Sydnee:** Liquid.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** You need liquid.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** And you use that as, like, your French toast batter. You know what I mean? Like, you just dump that in, like, a big pan, and then soak your bread in that.

**Raleigh:** Ohh, okay, okay.

**Sydnee:** And then you fry it up, just like you do with French toast. And you serve it on a plate that has, like, a pool of the melted ice cream on it to use as, like, your syrup kind of replacement, you know?

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** And this is what he served our children for breakfast.

**Raleigh:** Did they enjoy it?

**Sydnee:** Here is the wild thing.

**Raleigh:** They had to have, right?

**Sydnee:** So, Cooper loved it. Loved it. Charlie? Nope.

**Raleigh:** Charlie didn't like it?!

**Sydnee:** She said, and I quote, "It's too ice creamy?"

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Raleigh:** Charlie McElroy asks for ice cream—

**Sydnee:** All day, every day.

**Raleigh:** —for every meal, and also after every meal.

**Sydnee:** We don't give it to her, but she does ask for it.

**Raleigh:** Right, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Uh, yeah. She— it was too ice creamy.

**Raleigh:** Okay. Now, I could see—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** —okay, the soaking in the ice cream goo, sure. Maybe, like, it gives it a sweet vanilla flavor.

**Sydnee:** I did this with eggnog.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** I made French toast where I soa— instead of making the batter I just soaked it in eggnog over the holidays and did it, and I think that's pretty similar. It's not identical, but similar.

**Rileigh:** But did you place it on a plate in a pool full of eggnog?

**Sydnee:** No. Did not do that.

**Rileigh:** See, liquid does not have the same consistency as a syrup that you can, like, drizzle on your French toast, but it doesn't make it soggy. But if you just lay it in a pool of melted ice cream, then it moves past French toast sogginess and is just... dough, I think.

**Sydnee:** I—

**Taylor:** I— hmm.

**Sydnee:** It was soggy. I will say, like, it was on the— like, if there's a scale of French toast from the crispiest to, like, the mushiest, it was more of the mushy. Although it gets that, like, bread pudding-y kind of— you know what I mean?

**Rileigh:** Yeah, yeah.

**Sydnee:** I thought it was good. I thought— I mean, like, I don't know that I could eat a whole plate of it, 'cause it was pretty sweet, but I thought it tasted good.

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, there's a lot, like, the difference between melted ice cream and a lot of the batters that you'll drench French toast in is not really different. Like, when you look at what is in ice cream, like, you're talking about, you know, egg yolks and cream. It's, like, normal stuff for French toast. It's not too far outside of the realm. And yeah, like, the ice cream bath is weird, but it is— does make sense in, like, a— yeah, like the bread pudding sense. I don't know. I don't know if that's a crime. I think that's innovation.

**Rileigh:** Now, is it a crime because you have two small children, and this was their breakfast?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Well, I mean, I think that was probably bad.

**Rileigh:** Okay.

**Taylor:** No, there's that piece of bread in there that negated it being ice cream for breakfast. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** So it's breakfast.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Charlie ended up— because she wouldn't eat it, she ended up eating an egg and toast, just a scrambled egg and toast. Like, a healthier, I guess— I guess?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** She chose eggs over ice cream bread?!

**Sydnee:** Yes. Uh, I do this thing where I put a piece of toast in the waffle maker, and then I scramble an egg and dump it over it, and then—

**Rileigh:** That sounds good.

**Sydnee:** —squish it all together, and makes, like, this sort of—

**Rileigh:** It's an egg toast.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. She loves that.

**Rileigh:** That sounds good.

**Sydnee:** Um, but anyway, yeah. I don't know. I don't know. I couldn't believe it. He even did the, like— she looked at me and— she took a bite and she looked at me and she said, "[whispering] I don't like it."

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And I said, "Oh, honey, that's okay. You tried it. That's all we ever ask is try a new thing. If you don't like—" I'm not gonna force my kid to eat ice cream bread.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.



**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like, if it's, like, a vegetable—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] A healthy thing, sure.

**Sydnee:** —we're gonna keep goin' back for more bites before we decide we don't like it, but if you don't like ice cream bread, that's fine. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] That's fine.

**Sydnee:** We'll move on.

**Taylor:** [laughs] That's probably good for everybody involved.

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, and she was like, "Don't tell daddy. He'll be so sad."

And I'm like, "No, daddy'll understand. It's okay."

So, she's so worried about this. Justin comes in and I'm like, "Justin. Charlie doesn't like the ice cream bread, and I need you to tell her it's okay—"

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** And she immediately, like, starts crying.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like, oh, dear God!

**Raleigh:** She just starts sobbing and eating more of the ice cream bread.

**Sydnee:** No. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh, just— just— oh no. That's terrible.

**Sydnee:** So then we had to convince her that we both support and love her whether or not she likes ice cream bread.

**Raleigh:** Oh my God.

**Sydnee:** She is the most sensitive... she is very empathetic. Um, but don't worry, all of you out there. She was very happy to eat her egg toast at the end, and Cooper was very happy to eat the ice cream bread that Charlie didn't want.  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I'm happy for them both.

**Sydnee:** So...

**Raleigh:** Will ice cream bread be a regular occurrence in your house?

**Sydnee:** Never again.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** I think after all of the drama associated with it, I'm good now.

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** I don't— also, Justin did not innovate this. I don't know who— he watched a video, and—

**Raleigh:** Was it on TikTok?

**Sydnee:** Uh... we ended up watching a YouTube video about it. I don't know if he found it on TikTok and then went to YouT— I don't know.

**Raleigh:** It just feels like a TikTok thing. It's like when I saw the cereal they made on TikTok where they took pancake batter and just squirted it in the pan, but just made little tiny dots, so you made little tiny pancakes, and then dump that in a bowl and put milk in that.

**Sydnee:** I've seen that.

**Rileigh:** And that's cereal. That's just like you're eating a bunch of tiny little pancakes in milk, which I guess is cereal.

**Taylor:** I like that, 'cause I would feel like a giant.

**Rileigh:** Exactly. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** The YouTubers that Charlie likes have all tried this TikTok life hack.

[pause]

**Rileigh:** Which one?

**Sydnee:** Food hack. The one with the pancakes. So I've seen— I haven't seen it on TikTok. I've seen the YouTubers trying it, um, to varying degrees of success. Cooper calls life hacks life packs.

**Rileigh:** That's good.

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

**Taylor:** Oh, you need a life pack! [laughs] It sounds like something you pick up in a video game.

**Sydnee:** "[little kid voice] Can we watch a yife pack bideo?"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "I need a yife pack bideo."

"No, we're not watching a yife pack bideo."

**Rileigh:** It's so funny to me that young toddlers enjoy watching life hack— life pack videos, because, like, you don't even really know how to do life yet?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** But you're already trying to figure out how to hack it.

**Taylor:** Like, you can't put on pants by yourself, [through laughter] and, like, you're figuring out a shortcut to, like, rewiring a microwave or something.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, what are you doing?

**Sydnee:** Everybody's always trying to find a way to charge their iPhone with fruit. That's the main thing they're always trying to do.

**Taylor:** Ah, okay. That's... [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Well, I did do that for a science fair experiment in, like, sixth grade. [laughs quietly] It didn't work.

**Sydnee:** Uh, let's— let's just talk about this book. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, there is no good— there is no good transition.

**Sydnee:** Um, so we read this week— this feels like a book club. "Alright, welcome."

**Raleigh:** "Welcome, everyone."

**Sydnee:** Uh, this week we read *Weetzie Bat* by Francesca Lia Block, which was from 1989, I read when I was younger, and fell in love with and read repeatedly, and now I've made both of you read.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** And, uh, what did you think?

**Raleigh:** I enjoyed it. I did. Um, I told Sydnee before we started that it was a lot. Not in a bad way, but just, like, once stuff starts happening, stuff starts happening.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** And it does not stop happening until the end of the book, which is good. I mean, I enjoy that, especially in, like, what I assume was more of a young adult novel when it came out.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I like that.

**Sydnee:** I think it's in the YA section or whatever. Yeah, YA fiction, you can see on my Borders price tag.

**Rileigh:** Oh, man!

**Sydnee:** Right there on the book.

**Rileigh:** Um, I enjoy that in a young adult novel, because I feel like a lot of times, young adult novels, especially once that center around typically young women, always have, like, one kind of conflict, and usually it involves, like, a relationship of some sort. Um, and that's kind of all they get.

But I did appreciate that this was a lot more than that, and also a lot more character development than just, like, you know, girl likes boy, heteronormative society, uh, boy doesn't like girl, but then by the end, boy likes girl, and that's it.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, and it's— it is true that a lot happens, but I liked the way that it's all presented, because the writing style of this book is almost like a dream state. It's very— like, there's no heightened action when something particularly bad is happening. It's kind of all, you know, just— you're just flowing from one event to the next, so it's— it still feels like a very relaxing read, even though a lot of very dramatic stuff happens in this book. It's... I don't know. It's an interesting writing style.

**Sydnee:** It is. Um, it should be said, if anybody is thinking of reading this book, it's definitely— like, it was written in 1989, and I would say that it deals with issues in a less kind of sophisticated way than we would deal with a lot of things now. Um, like when it comes to, like, sexuality and stuff.

**Rileigh:** I mean, it was written in, what? '89?

**Sydnee:** '89, mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So, I mean, I don't think— I always hate to, like, retroactively label something as problematic. There are definitely ways that we wouldn't— you know, that— I think the sexuality is not presented in a modern way, um, and could be talked about— even though they're trying. It's trying to be representative of the fact that, hey, not everybody's straight.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But, you know, it's 1989. That is part of it. And then reading it again, I forgot how much cultural appropriation—

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** —takes place in the book, especially when it comes to indigenous peoples and Native Americans. There's a lot of that, and I had forgotten that until I read it, and I was like, "Oh. Oh. Oh."

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um, I will say, I was pleasantly surprised when I started reading and, you know, Weetzie gets interested in, like, 50's Americana stuff and meets Dirk, who also is, and they bond over this. And my immediate thought was like, "Oh, well, you know, this is her love interest, I suppose."

But then he's gay, and I was very pleasantly surprised by that, that, like, this was— I mean, had to have been one of the earliest written examples in a YA novel of, like, a gay young man. And that's okay.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I— well, and I wonder— when I look back and I think about, like, why did I become so obsessed with this book, that was exactly— I remember having that thought. Like, "Oh, okay, so she's found somebody who's kinda quirky, like her, and into the same old sort of stuff she's into, so these two will fall in love."

And then when he tells her he's gay and she's like, "That's fine." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And that's— that's that whole point. "I'm gay."

"Okay."

**Rileigh:** That's cool.

**Taylor:** I thought that was— 'cause I thought that was an interesting moment, because even now in media it seems like we're still stuck on the idea that coming out is this tragic thing, or it's very— you know, you tell your loved ones and you have to give them time to, like, be disappointed in you or upset, which I think is bogus. Uh, but, like, this is '89, and the response is literally like, "Hey, I'm gay."

And Weetzie Bat is like, "Oh, that's okay, honey-honey." [laughs] Like, oh man, I wish I'd had a Weetzie Bat to come out to! [laughs] She's just gonna throw some glitter in the air and be like, "No problem!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And then they go duck hunting together.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Right?

**Sydnee:** Which is— which is what they call looking for boys.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Yes. Um—

**Sydnee:** They're not actually duck hunting.

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, that would've been weird either way, but... [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. There is no duck murder in this, thank goodness.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** We like ducks here. We're very pro duck here, so. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** The names in this book, I just have to mention. When I saw it was named *Weetzie Bat*, I thought—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's the name of the main character, by the way.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Her name is Weetzie Bat.

**Rileigh:** I thought it had to be, like, alluding to something or event or, I don't know. It did not— I did not think it was someone's name, and that is the main character's name, and there's Dirk, and then there's Duck. They go duck hunting, but then there is just Duck. Um, and then what is the—

**Sydnee:** My Secret Agent Lover Man?

**Rileigh:** My Secret Agent Lover Man, which I like because it reminds me of, like, the old... kind of overdone trope of, like, the quote, unquote, "Manic pixie dream girl" or whatever. But, like, it's not about the girl this time. It's my Secret Agent Lover Man. I like that they turn it around and make it about a dude.

**Sydnee:** Which, to be fair, you could level that—

**Rileigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** —at Weetzie Bat.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** For sure.

**Rileigh:** Yes. I just like that they take it to someone else, too, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Well, everyone in the book seems to be that. Like, they're all... manic pixie dream girls. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Sure. That is true.

**Taylor:** [laughs] It is a manic pixie dream book.



**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** It is not just Weetzie Bat who's, like, showing everybody this, like, romantic, wild, quirky way to live. They're all living that, and they're all into it and part of it, and she has just surrounded herself with other people who share her aesthetic, as opposed to, like... saving men from boredom or whatever. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I always— I always think of, like, *Scott Pilgrim Vs The World*. Ramona Flowers just shows up and is like, "Look how... quirky and wonderful. I'm gonna save these boring white men." [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No. And there is none of that in this book. Um, everybody is— everybody is colorful and beautiful and...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** ... offbeat.

**Raleigh:** It does— Tey's right, it does read like a dream sequence. Um, it's very mystical.

**Sydnee:** And part of it— like, so the— okay. So, the plot of the book— and there's a lot. It's a very short book, but it is dense.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** With stuff that happens, with, um, occurrences. Um, but the general idea is pretty straightforward. Weetzie Bat is a young woman, I don't know how young. It's not really clear how young she is when the book begins.

**Raleigh:** I guess you're right.

**Sydnee:** She, uh, meets a guy, Dirk, who shares her kind of eccentric interests. Uh, he tells her he's gay. They go looking for guys together. She... uh, basically the whole thing sets off because she makes a wish. She, like, finds a magic lamp and rubs the lamp and makes a wish.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And and the genie grants her three wishes, which are that Dirk will find a guy, and she will find a guy, and they'll all live together in a fairy tale house. And that is essentially the rest of the book.

**Raleigh:** That is what ends up happening.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Are these events unfolding, and then, um, I guess without spoiling it too much, like, how their lives kind of proceed from there. Um, and there's sad stuff. There are characters that— not the main characters, but there are characters who die. And there's happy stuff. Kids are born.

**Raleigh:** Multiple.

**Sydnee:** Multiple. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Uh, and they make movies, all together. That tends— that seems to be how these characters pay their rent.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Do you—

**Sydnee:** Or actually, they own their house so I guess there's not rent, but the utility bills. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Now that I'm thinking about it, did you like this because it's a little bit like *Dawson's Creek*?

[pause]

**Sydnee:** I don't know that I would've ever—

**Raleigh:** It's a little bit like *Dawson's Creek*.

**Sydnee:** —made a *Dawson's Creek* connection.

**Raleigh:** A little bit.

**Sydnee:** Um...

**Raleigh:** A little bit.

**Sydnee:** A little bit.

**Taylor:** I mean, there's filmmaking.

**Sydnee:** On an unrelated note, I didn't tell you all. I had a dream that I took care of Pacey in the hospital.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Of course you did.

**Taylor:** Oh? Was it a good dream?

**Sydnee:** It was a very vivid dream but I— yeah, he—

**Raleigh:** What was wrong with Pacey?

**Sydnee:** He just had a hand injury, and I stitched up his hand and he was fine.

**Raleigh:** Now, wait. This is in—

**Sydnee:** It was a minor—

**Raleigh:** I was gonna say, this is important. How old was Pacey?

**Sydnee:** To be fair, it wasn't about Pacey. It was about Joshua Jackson. [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's okay. That's what I wanna know, was it Pacey or was it Joshua Jackson? Okay.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes. Those are very different things.

**Sydnee:** I did. I had a dream where I—

**Raleigh:** That's fine. That's fair.

**Sydnee:** Joshua Jackson was injured. I don't know why he was here, in Huntington, West Virginia, but he was, and he came to my hospital, and I had to tend to his wound, and I did, and he was very thankful. And I thanked him, uh, for his great work that I very much enjoyed, and he was like, "*Dawson's Creek*?"

And I was like, "I'm actually a huge fan of *Fringe*, too."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And he was like, "Oh, that's so nice to hear! Nobody ever says that."

And I'm like, "Yeah, well, I am. Thank you."

And then he left. That was the whole dream! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Pleasant dream?

**Sydnee:** My dreams aren't very exciting, um, apparently.

**Raleigh:** That sounds exciting for you.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, well, I mean—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —he didn't, like, ask me out to dinner. He just said "Thanks. I'm so glad you enjoy my body of work."

I was like—

**Raleigh:** *Fringe* and *Dawson's Creek*.

**Sydnee:** "I'm glad I could stitch up your hand."

**Taylor:** [laughs] That's a very respectful dream.

**Sydnee:** It was. Very appropriate. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, uh—

**Sydnee:** Justin can hear all about this dream. He'd be pleased. [laughs] Uh, anyway, yeah. I mean, I guess you could make that comparison. I do like the idea of, um, all the people who love each other being together all the time.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Just being all sort of... piled into that one house all together. As the book progresses, like, there are the two couples, and then there's also, like—there are babies, and there are lots of dogs. And it sounds like it's a very full house, and I...

**Raleigh:** Is this why you also like *Full House*?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Oh, I love on *Full House* how no one ever leaves.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I think Sydnee's dream... uh, in life, what Sydnee really wants, is one day all of us move into this house, into Sydnee and Justin's house together.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And, you know, Taylor and I move in to a guest room, mom and dad move in to a guest room, probably, like, Travis and Griffin and their wives and their children, and everyone just lives in one house and no one can ever leave.

**Sydnee:** I really— because we're in West Virginia, I really probably should have been, like, in a holler. 'Cause, you know, like—

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** —families do that. Like, they all live in a holler together, and you can just walk to everybody's house, and I've always been so envious of that. Like, I've always wanted that with our family, and our extended family as everybody, like, got married. Like, just come here. We'll buy all the houses on this street one by one.

**Raleigh:** I mean, that's what you're starting to do. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And move into them, and then we can all just live on the same street together, and... [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Sydnee wants, like, a gated community of just u— that's a little bit like a cult.

**Sydnee:** Not gated, not gated!

**Raleigh:** That's a little bit like a cult, Sydnee. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It is— a commune is not wrong.

**Taylor:** You— you—

**Sydnee:** Commune is a word. [laughs]

**Taylor:** You want— you want SmcElroy Holler. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Holler, commune, whatever word you like.

**Taylor:** Ehh. Uh...

**Sydnee:** Neighborhood. Village.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Maybe that's why I like this book so much. It's sort of reminiscent of, um, piling all the stuffed animals up on the bed so they won't float away.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** When we used to play boat. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah. I mean, it is— it's a very...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] I'm sorry— sorry, I just— "When we used to play boat."

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** Didn't you ever play boat?

**Raleigh:** [snorts] Not, like, sailor, pirate... boat. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Boat. We're on a boat.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Taylor, don't you remember boat?

**Taylor:** Yeah, I guess I remember boat. I don't know. To me, the point of boat was that, like, there's sharks in the water, or there's excitement. I didn't realize that you were just, like, "Now I will never be alone, for we are surrounded by water and we are stuck here together."

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** We played boat at the same time in very different ways. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You all— you all have to stop saying "We played boat!" I can't hear it anymore! [muffled] It's gonna make me pee my pants!

**Sydnee:** That's— that's what it was called!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It was called boat!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I would say, "Do you wanna play boat?"

**Raleigh:** [laughs breathlessly]

**Sydnee:** And the point of boat is you had to get everything that had been, like, anthropomorphized in the room, anything that we had decided had a soul— [laughs] which was all our stuffed animals, but also other objects that, like, were personified. But everything in the room—

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Like— like what?

**Sydnee:** Just, like— I mean, sometimes I had, like, little figurines and things that were important to me.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Or, like, books that I felt very close to.

**Raleigh:** Right, okay, that's what I was waiting for. That's what I thought was going to be—

**Sydnee:** Like, things like that had to also be on the bed, along with the stuffed animals, because—

**Raleigh:** On boat.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** —on boat, because they had— they had grown souls—[laughs] and so they had to be saved. And then periodically something would tumble off into the water, and we had to save... them. And they always got saved. No one ever got eaten.



**Rileigh:** Everyone got back on boat.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, everyone got back on boat—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —and then that was the point, was to be on boat.

**Taylor:** It was kind of like the floor is lava, except for the floor was water and you were on boat. That seems... you know.

**Rileigh:** And you can't leave boat.

**Sydnee:** [emphatically] No.

**Taylor:** No, no, you could, like, build a pillow... bridge. To get to a... a souled stuffed animal.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** And rescue it.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] J— j— just the ones that had souls.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Yeah. Yeah!

**Rileigh:** Were there— wait. Were there any that were stuffed animals that you just collectively decided, like, "Not you." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Soulless!

**Taylor:** Yeah, I'd say all of those— all those porcelain dolls that I had never made it onto the boat. [laughs] Just sayin'.

**Sydnee:** No, I don't remember if— I don't think I would've ever done that, but Tey, I can see you deciding, like, "Yeah, not you." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah, I think I was very aware of what things in my room did or did not have souls. I had an active, like, antagonistic relationship with many toys in my

room. I was like, "You are gonna kill me in my sleep. I am aware of this. [laughs] It's just a matter of when."

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Uh...

**Raleigh:** Sorry, that was not about— I just— I couldn't let the show continue without hearing more about boat.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** One thing I do think about this book that I liked that is totally, um, superficial, but upon reading again I realized was key to my enjoyment, is the food.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** All of the food descriptions, the very, like, vivid... everybody's enjoyment of various locations and situations is always very much tied to the food they get to eat there.

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** And this is how I experience things.

**Raleigh:** That's how our family kind of experiences things. That's fair.

**Sydnee:** Um, I like to know about the food that the characters are eating, and I appreciate that.

**Taylor:** But, you know, I mean, that's a— I really liked the aesthetics of this book, because there is just this constant, like, rundown of, like, the hairstyles, and the clothing, and the colors, and the food. It's very, like... like, it engages your senses very much, and I... it kind of reminded me of, uh, like— almost, like, of a well written pop song, you know?

That, like, importance of specificity to make you connect with things. And this book is literally just straight through of that, which, I don't know. I found that very enjoyable. And I also think it is— it makes, like— when we think of, like, our

best memories or, like, things that trigger our sentimentality, it's rarely, like, big life events. It's usually things like this.

Like, having that, you know— eating those hot dogs on that New York City street corner with, like, you know, your old best friend, or, like, whatever. Like, drinking beers on a rooftop. Like, it's very specific, like, sensory things that you remember as, like, your most beloved memory, and there are so many of these in this book. It's really enjoyable.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that— that really connected with me. It reminded me— this is probably the only time this comparison has ever been made, but the— it was the one thing that I really loved about the book *The Yearling*. [laughs quietly] Did you ever have to read *The Yearling*?

**Taylor:** No, I don't think so, no.

**Rileigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** I had to read *The Yearling* when I was in, I don't know, elementary, middle school, something like that. And in it, they live— I don't remember much about it other than they lived, like, on a farm. And so, like, everybody would have to get up super early and do a bunch of farm chores, but then they would have breakfast. [laughs quietly] And the breakfast descriptions in *The Yearling*—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I just, like— I wanted to read them over and over again. Like, I don't know where people eat breakfast like this. I don't even like breakfast that much! But, like, ohh, these breakfasts. Like, I just could live in those breakfasts. [laughs] From *The Yearling*, like I could live in a lot of the food scenes... from *Weetzie Bat*.

**Rileigh:** I like to imagine that whenever you read this book for school you had to, like, write some sort of response or essay or something about, like, something significant or a symbol, and you just took those scenes. You took the food and said, "This is the most important part. Let me write about this food." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I guarantee you I did.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I was obsessed with those food scenes. Like, they just— I like food, but I just—[laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah, I know what you mean. It's, like, a very underused sensory description in text, I think, is taste. People just don't go there too often, but when you can really get descriptions of food I— yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, I had the same— you know, it's funny, Syd. I had the same exact experience with *The Little House on the Prairie* books.

**Sydnee:** Yeah?

**Taylor:** I was obsessed with those, the Laura Ingalls Wilder books, because the way they would describe— and I mean, this was, like, frontier food, so they were eating, like, hardtack and, like, you know, biscuits with honey and just, you know, like— it was such simple stuff, but the way it sounded to me I was like, "I want to eat that."

I was obsessed with the way they talked about food. And, like, you know, corn cakes and stuff like that, like, in those *Little House on the Prairie* books. [laughs] I read all of them, I think, just for the cornbread content.

**Rileigh:** Cornbread content. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** We need to do a whole other— it would have to be, like, a video series where we just, like, put all these different, like, book and whatever media depictions of food to the test. Like, does it live up to what your memory— because the— I feel like my real life experience with that was Turkish Delight.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Ohh.

**Rileigh:** Like, in Narnia?

**Taylor:** Every child's disappointment. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm, that was a disappointment.

**Sydnee:** The first time I tried— 'cause I had read Turkish Delight and I didn't know what it was, but oh my gosh, all I ever wanted to do was eat it. Like, please, someday let me try Turkish Delight. I didn't try it till I was in college for the first time, and I got the rose-flavored one which I— I don't know if that's, like, the... classic.

**Taylor:** That's the usual one, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Um, and I tried it, and I did not like it at all, and I think part of it is that I have learned this about myself, I don't really like rose-flavored things very much, so a— there might be other flavors I would've loved, but all I got to try was the rose-flavored. And I just remember, like, all those moments from my childhood of dreaming of Turkish Delight, and then trying it and going, "Oh..." [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** In Turkish Delight's defense, I will say, I had some fresh, like, from a shop that just actively made it in Istanbul, and that was entirely different. The packaged stuff is nothing like the stuff that's, like, been made recently, so I think that that's actually pretty good. It still doesn't live up to whatever— my mind conjured up this, like... golden, like, kind of syrupy— I expected there to be, like, I don't know. Like, almost like baklava but, like, just soaked in honey was for some reason how my brain pictured Turkish Delight. Uh... just kinda nice and chewy but... [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's good to know that there is a vers— and I suspected that, 'cause I also knew there were other flavors, and that if I just maybe didn't like rose-flavored, maybe that was the problem. So, and then in the movies when they did it with, like, the powdered sugar all over it? Oh. Oh!

**Rileigh:** Yes! We, uh— we did a produ—[laughs] local community theater production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And I played Susan. And the boy who played Edmund obviously got to eat Turkish Delight on stage, and we all were so jealous. We were like, "[sighs] We really wanna try that." So I remember before anyone had tried it they were like, "Okay, you all can have a piece. You know, you all can try it together."

And we all just collectively were so disappointed, we no longer were jealous he got to eat it on stage, because he didn't even want to.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** But it was the kind that was, like, covered in powdered sugar in the little, like, cubes. I have no idea what that was.

**Sydnee:** You know, and who knows. Sometimes the American version of stuff really—

**Rileigh:** Is not right.

**Sydnee:** —ruins what it's supposed to be, I have learned. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, I think anything that's, like, been packaged. It's like fresh marshmallows. Have you ever had, like, a fresh marshmallow?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** And that's, like, a treat, but then it's— you don't feel the same way about, like, a marshmallow from the bag. [laughs] They're fine, it's just like, "Eh. I'm not excited about that." It'd be weird to stand around eatin' 'em. I don't know. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Well... [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Rileigh's like, "Well... "

**Taylor:** What— okay. No judgment if you do, actually. That's fine.

**Rileigh:** Well, I was thinking more so of, um, our dad, and also your children, Sydnee, that will just eat marshmallows. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes, my children would just eat marshmallow— yeah, if I would let them they would just— actually they try a lot. They'll go steal a bag of marshmallows from the pantry and hide in— well, they don't hide very well. They just get in Charlie's bed together.

**Rileigh:** And put it under the covers.

**Sydnee:** And, like, get under the covers and start eating marshmallows. And it's like, well, I know where— I can find you.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] They're doing the whole kid thing. "If I can't see you, you can't see me."

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, the other thing I wanted to say I liked about the book is, like, as you follow the plot, you have the romance between the main character Weetzie Bat and the guy who's named My Secret Agent Lover Man. Which, like, they sort of explain why these names are odd, in the sense that she makes a wish that her— her best friend Dirk finds a duck, and then he finds a guy named Duck, and that she will find her secret agent lover man, and she finds a guy named My Secret Agent Lover Man. So, like, it's— it's magical, you know. They kind of put that there.

But you have the relationship between the two of them, and they have, like, a falling out and then get back together kind of thing. But then the romance between Dirk and Duck I found really moving, and I love that that was out there

for teenagers when I was a teenager, 'cause that was— I mean, it was so long ago. And you didn't see these kinds of depictions.

But Duck gets freaked out about love, because what is insinuated in the book is that one of his friends has AIDS, has HIV and then is sick enough that it's kind of insinuated he has AIDS. And Duck kind of just freaks out about the whole thing and takes off. And Dirk goes to find him, and I always found that scene where he just happens to find him in the right bar in all of— I mean, basically all of California, like, he just... went somewhere looking for him and finds him, I always found that, like, a really romantic, loving, lovely scene, and it's great, because at that point in time for the really kind of sweeping romantic conclusion to be between the two male characters and not the straight couple would've been pretty unusual.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know?

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And it's really beautiful imagery too, because, like, Dirk keeps saying, "You're in my blood."

And then Duck is kind of— you know, comparatively talking about how he, like, cut himself shaving or something and saw his blood, and that's kind of the fear, and that's the reference to AIDS of, like, how our love can be dangerous, or how our blood can be dangerous. And then it's, you know, wrapped up with, "But you're in my blood." And they find each other. I— yeah. It was... it's rare that the gay romance is actually more romantic than the straight one, so I was here for that. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was, uh— it was like a precursor to *Schitt's Creek*.

**Rileigh:** That's exactly what I was about to say.

**Sydnee:** You know?



**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That it's like the, um, Patrick and David.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Instead of Alexis and Ted.

**Sydney:** Which was also a good romance but, like...

**Raleigh:** Not as good.

**Sydney:** You're there for David and Patrick.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydney:** Like... [laughs] uh, but yeah. I loved that, and it's... I wonder when I think about, like, even though we grew up here in West Virginia where, like, things aren't... the most progressive—

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydney:** —typically, um, I always feel like we had sort of ingrained in us more progressive attitudes than the people around us. Not in our family but, like, other kids at school, and that kind of thing. And I know part of that is because of our family and how we were raised, and the values we were taught and stuff like that. But I also wonder how much of it was exposure to things like this, where, like, I read this and fell in love with this and fell in love with the characters in this book, and I was so young, and all of this seemed completely normal to me.

There was nothing about it that seemed, like, "Ooh. You're not supposed to do that." Or, "Ooh, that's bad." Or, "Oh, some people think that's—" it was just... this is great. And these characters love each other, and isn't that sweet and wonderful and... I don't know.

**Taylor:** Well—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] You know—

**Taylor:** Go ahead.

**Raleigh:** Go ahead.

**Taylor:** Oh, no, I was gonna change topics. Go ahead. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] I was also going to change topics.

**Taylor:** Oh. Well, I was gonna say— 'cause, I mean, likewise they talk about abortion in this book, and it's mentioned briefly, but basically when, uh, Weetzie and Secret Lover Man have their falling out, uh, Secret Agent Lover Man sleeps with another woman, and she gets pregnant, and so she asks him for money for an abortion, and he gives it to her. And it's kind of not— like, that's the— the extent of the discussion around it, so it's... in a way, it's treating it like a very normal possibility. For a teen book in the 80's, 90's, I think that's pretty— that's pretty important that that's just treated as that's what she's decided to do, so that's the option.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I, um, was going to— when you were talking about, like, exposing yourself to that kind of media that was more inclusive, I was thinking about how when I was growing up, I didn't necessarily have that. Like, I think about all the Disney shows and Nickelodeon shows I watched. There weren't necessarily any not straight characters that I remember. Um, at least being as, like, open and accepted as the characters in this book. Um, but I was thinking about Jojo Siwa.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydney:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Because although I am no longer a young, as-impressionable child, I think about, like, she's a real person, but also kind of like a character that lots of little kids— I mean, Charlie's six, and Charlie loves Jojo Siwa— um, look up to, and she just came out as queer. I don't think she has labeled herself yet.

**Sydney:** Yeah, I don't— yeah.

**Raleigh:** Just not straight.

**Sydney:** She was wearing that shirt that said "Best gay cousin ever," so.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. She said in her video she just loves humans, so not straight.

**Sydnee:** Oh, okay. I didn't see that. Okay.

**Rileigh:** But, I mean, still, there's a character/real person that little kids are like, "Okay. That's— you know, still Jojo Siwa, and I still like... her bows." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** And that's it. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I like that Jojo Siwa has been covering herself in rainbows for, like, so long, and now we're like, "Ohhh! Ohh." I mean—[laughs]

**Sydnee:** Ohhh.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Uh, yeah, it did not— Charlie was like, "Oh, okay." I mean, that was kind of the extent of that. 'Cause I thought, like, "Oh, that's good for me to— hey, look Jojo Siwa just put out this video and this is what she said," and she— that was pretty much the extent of her reaction. "Oh, okay."

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "Cool." And then they go back to— her and Cooper like to play Jojo and Bobo. Bobo is Jojo's dog.

**Rileigh:** Does Cooper play the dog?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Okay.

**Sydnee:** Cooper is Bobo the dog, and they'll play— she'll be Jojo. They— by the way, they are now obsessed with going to Omaha.

**Rileigh:** [quietly] What?

**Sydnee:** I guess that's where she's from?

**Rileigh:** Oh. I didn't know that.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Your— your— your kids wanna go to Omaha.

**Sydnee:** They are obsessed with going to Omaha. Like, both of them have come up independently. Like, Charlie did first. She went, "Mommy, when it's— when the pandemic's over—[laughs quietly] when the pandemic's over and we can travel again, can we go to Omaha?"

**Rileigh:** Not Disney? Not... I don't know. Any— anywhere else?

**Sydnee:** And I said, "What?" [laughs] "Why?"

And she went, "Well, in the Jojo movie that we're watching, Jojo's from Omaha, and you can go to Omaha, 'cause that's where Jojo's house is," or something.

And I'm like, "Well, we probably can't go to... Jojo's house."

**Rileigh:** The house.

**Sydnee:** "That's... that would be weird. Uh, we can't do that. But... we could go to Omaha, I guess? There's probably some stuff to do there. I don't know. Never been. I'm sure— there's stuff to do everywhere. There's probably some stuff there."

And she was like, "Okay. I really wanna go to Omaha."

And then later, Cooper walked up to me and went, "Mommy—"

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Cooper is too?

**Sydnee:** "[little kid voice] Mommy, can me go to Omaha?"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And I said, "What?" They are obsessed with the idea of Omaha now, because that's where Jojo and Bobo are.

**Rileigh:** Well.

**Sydnee:** So. [laughs] "[little kid voice] Can we go to Omaha?"

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** First— first trip after the pandemic: Omaha.

**Rileigh:** Omaha.

**Sydnee:** Omaha.

**Taylor:** There you go.

**Rileigh:** Wow. But—

**Sydnee:** I know. They always say that, too. Both— Cooper will say that, too. When— well, she'll say "the sickness."

**Rileigh:** "The sickness goes away."

**Taylor:** Aww.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm, when there's no more sickness.

**Rileigh:** Aww.

**Sydnee:** But Charlie will say, "After the pan— after coronavirus is gone. After the pandemic." [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** She has said that many times when I've talked about, like, "Yeah, I'm not doing this anymore. Yeah, this got canceled."

She's always like, "Oh. Because of the coronavirus?"

Yeah. Yep. You're right. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** She doesn't call it COVID. She always says coronavirus.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** —but, I mean, it's like— there's Jojo who, yes, is a real person, but is the same kind of thing. Kids are now being exposed to that kind of media, um, and other important conversations, like Tey was talking about how they talk about abortion that way. And I just feel like that's the kind of stuff that even I didn't really read anything like that growing up, probably, what? 20 years after this book came out, when I was starting to, like, read young adult books? Probably longer. And I didn't read anything like that, so.

**Taylor:** Well, and that's sort of, I think, you know, as much as... the constant narrative in those sort of cases, you know, we— there— there's a lot of dramatic representations of queer lives and, you know, abortion stories out there, but, like, to have them presented in, like, a low key just, like, "This is just life, this is just the way people are, these are just some roads you might take," is so refreshing, and I think it's so important. And, I mean, it— and I read that this book was— Texas, of course, tried to ban it. [laughs] When it was out, because—

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Taylor:** Because we don't want people to think that you can— I don't— 'cause it's so funny, too, 'cause, like, it can have, like, a nice, aesthetically pleasing, pleasant life in LA, but you can also be gay while you do it! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's so wild— I mean, I guess that makes sense. I don't know. It's funny for me to think about, how did Mom— Mom got this for me. And I wonder how she— I wonder if it was just, like, cover?

**Raleigh:** That's what I was gonna say. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah. It's really pretty. The book has a really nice cover. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's a very pretty book. And, you know, the other thing about it is, I was looking at the—[laughs quietly] the Borders price tag on it, and it was the—the one that she got me was listed as the 10th Anniversary Edition, which means I must've gotten this in 1999. Uh, and it's the hardback one. So I bet it was, like, sitting out on one of the tables at Borders—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] At Borders.

**Sydnee:** —you know? Like, where they display new things that came out. I bet it was sitting out as, like, a good gift idea or, like, on the YA Fiction table or something like that, and I bet it was that simple. Like, mom looked at it and was like, "Huh. This looks like something maybe Sydnee would like." And, I mean, I read everything back then, so. Uh, but I'm really glad she did, 'cause I loved it. I read it obsessively. I have held on to it. It is with my, like— it is in my office with my medical texts.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I keep... I keep, like, the books that are most important to me, like the medical stuff that I reference for my other podcast, but I also keep, like, the books that I super love. Things like *The Princess Bride* are there, and *Weetzie Bat*, because I read it over and over again.

**Raleigh:** Well, I'm glad Mom introduced you to it, because now we got to read it.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Thank you both for reading it.

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Taylor:** I—

**Sydnee:** I really appreciate it.

**Taylor:** Thank you for giving it to us. I loved it. I thought it was just... I don't know. I mean, I kinda— it— it's the sort of story that I like, you know, because I feel like that's just... it's— real life happens, but it's just— it's how you look at it

sometimes. And, you know, the big, im— horrible or amazing things that happen sit right next to that really good, you know— that really good burrito you had on the pier. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Like, that's kinda just how life is.

**Sydnee:** I think it is. I think it's a nice, tasty little book. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Tasty little morsel of a book.

**Sydnee:** It is. It is. Um... alright. What's next, Tey?

**Taylor:** Uh, well, I want to make y'all watch some anime. Um—

**Raleigh:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** Alright.

**Taylor:** Uh, I want to bring *Howl's Moving Castle*, a 2004 animated film by Studio Ghibli, uh, to the table. Uh, it's based off of a book. We don't have to read the books, but just watch the movie.

**Sydnee:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** Alright. Exciting.

**Sydnee:** That sounds good. I think Charlie'll enjoy that with me.

**Taylor:** It's a lovely film.

**Raleigh:** Be a nice little break from school.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** This weekend, I take a little break.



**Sydnee:** There you go.

**Raleigh:** Watch a nice movie.

**Sydnee:** Well, excellent. Well, we will check that out for next week, and thank you both again. Thank you, listeners, uh, for tuning in, and check out this book, *Weetzie Bat*, if you're so interested, if it sounds like something that might be up your alley. Um, it is good— I would say, uh, age range, like, I would've read it in high school, and it's probably because it is— there are some, like... like I said, some darker story lines, like, that deal with death and stuff, that is probably an older teenage book, you know? Um, and then adults, too.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org) if you want to listen to a lot of wonderful podcasts you would enjoy. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org) if you have thoughts or suggestions or questions or comments or... anything you want to share. And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[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 Teylor Smirl.

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

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

**Raleigh:** I'm gonna go ask your kids if they wanna play boat.

**Taylor:** [laughs] You gotta teach 'em boat!

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] The best game: boat.

**Rileigh:** Boat.

**Taylor:** Syd, is Cooper your witch baby?

**Sydney:** Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydney:** And Charlie's my [unintelligible].

**Taylor:** [laughs]

[music ends]

[music plays]

**Jackie:** I'm going first! It's me, Jackie Kashian.

**Laurie:** Man, she's always this bossy!

[all laugh]

**Laurie:** Uh, hi, I'm Laurie Kilmartin. We're a bunch of stand-up comics, and we've been doing comedy, like, 60 years total with both of us—

**Jackie:** [laughs]

**Laurie:** But we look amazing. And—

**Kyle:** [laughs]

**Jackie:** It's all working out. We drop every Monday on Max Fun, and it's called *The Jackie and Laurie Show*, and you could listen to it, and learn about comedy, and learn about anger management, and all the things.

**Laurie:** And Jackie is married but childless, and I'm unmarried but childful, so together we make...

**Jackie and Laurie:** ...One complete woman.

[pause]

**Kyle:** [through laughter] Is that just where that one's gonna end?

**Laurie:** Yeah! Yeah!

**Kyle:** [laughs]

**Jackie:** And we try to make Kyle laugh just like that and say "Oh my God" every episode.

**Kyle:** It's a good job.

**Speaker Four:** *The Jackie and Laurie Show.* Mondays, only on Maximum Fun.

[music and advertisement end]

[chord]

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