

Still Buffering 247: "Howl's Moving Castle" (2004)

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm wearing joggers.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Wha— are we— are we at ads already? What's goin' on? [laughs]

Raleigh: I am wearing leggings. I—[laughs]

Sydnee: No, I just— I assume you're also wearing pants, Tey? As long as we're—

Taylor: I mean, you know, I don't have to. And sometimes I don't when we record this podcast, 'cause you just see me from, like, the shoulders up, but I am wearing pants today.

Sydnee: Joggers are very popular among... youths, I have read. And so I—

Raleigh: Youths. [laughs]

Sydnee: —I purchased some... joggers. Or, I'm sorry. Are they yoggers? [laughs quietly]

Taylor: What?

Raleigh: Sorry, what?

Sydnee: That's an *Anchorman* joke. [laughs]

Taylor: Oh, oh, yes.

Rleigh: So, you wanna go from talking about how the youths like joggers to making an *Anchorman* joke and think that everyone in our audience is gonna get both of 'em.

Sydnee: Do young people not like *Anchorman*?

Rleigh: I have seen *Anchorman*.

[pause]

Sydnee: Well, that was—[laughs]

Rleigh: [simultaneously] End of sentence. [laughs]

Sydnee: —that was very diplomatic.

Rleigh: A very long time ago.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. It's very funny.

Rleigh: Yeah! I just [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: I bet jogging in these are— I believe it's pronounced "yogging."

Rleigh: Ah, so they're yoggers.

Sydnee: They're yoggers.

Taylor: Okay, alright. I— I— it's— I'm glad you explained your joke from *Anchorman* to the audience.

Rleigh: [laughs] It's always really funny when you— when you get to explain it after. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. That's...

Sydnee: [laughs] Well, you know... they can't all be winners.

Taylor: Do— did— were— was you introducing your pants to us gonna go somewhere? Did you have further commentary? Or you wanted [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: I just wanted to— I wanted to update you that I am part of the current trends, and I'm wearing joggers.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I think they're— I hate to break it to you— I think they're sweatpants.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I was gonna say, I don't think that there's actually a difference between joggers and sweatpants. I think it's just we rebranded sweatpants.

Raleigh: Yeah. All the joggers have that little cuff at the bottom.

Sydnee: Right.

Raleigh: And that's it.

Sydnee: They're, like, slimmer fit than my, uh, like, old sweatpants, like, that I would've worn when I was young.

Raleigh: A youth. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yeah. I mean, like, they're—[laughs quietly] like, the ones then were sort of, like— they just— they kind of, like— they kind of— marshmallow-y all around you, you know?

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Kind of give you marshmallow—

Raleigh: Like the jeans were back then.

Sydnee: [laughs] Yeah!

Taylor: Wide leg sweatpants. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, they were— like, I mean, and they were cuffed at the bottom, but they made sure to poof out in the middle. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, and these don't as much. Like, they're a little... I can't— I thought the appeal of joggers was that they look nice enough that you could wear them outside of, like, hanging around the house. I wouldn't wear these outside of hanging around the house.

Raleigh: Oh. I have worn my joggers outside of the home before.

Sydnee: Well... I mean, they're comfortable.

Raleigh: They're very comfortable.

Sydnee: Yes. But they feel like pajama pants. [laughs]

Raleigh: I mean, if we have accepted that leggings/yoga pants are no longer workout clothes, they are just, like, wear around clothes—

Sydnee: This is true. And they're [crosstalk]—

Raleigh: —everywhere, I feel like joggers are the same.

Sydnee: That's true. And these feel more like pants than leggings or yoga pants. Which, like, I always— even when I leave the house in 'em I still feel like, "[sing-song] I'm not wearing pants, and no one knows!"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: What?

[all laugh]

Taylor: I support anything that leads to the further, like, degradation of what qualifies as pants, because I... I don't want to live in a just pants and jeans only world, so, you know.

Sydnee: Sure. Yeah.

Taylor: Just this jog— jeggings and leggings and joggers and— sure, whatever. None of it's pants, so all of it's pants.

Raleigh: Exactly.

Sydnee: Uh—

Taylor: Schrodinger's Pants.

Raleigh: Yes. [laughs]

Sydnee: I also learned that, um, young people are into *Grease 2* recently.

Raleigh: [sighs heavily] Yeah.

Taylor: Hmm...

Raleigh: You sent us— I saw that on, uh... on Twitter is where I saw that.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Um... I guess I'm not a young person anymore. [laughs] I don't know.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: This is where Raleigh draws the line. [laughs]

Raleigh: I guess I'm old now. That's fine, if that's what the younger generation's gonna be about. I'll just say I'm old now. That's fine.

Sydnee: Well, apparently they were interviewing Michelle Pfeiffer about it, and she was, like, incredulous. Like, anybody— like, that anyone would like *Grease 2*.
[laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah, she [laughs] stands by that's the worst thing she's ever done.
[laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] But the music's great!

Rileigh: Apparently it's a TikTok sound. "Cool Rider" is like, I guess a thing.

Sydnee: It's— I will tell you that, like, there— I—[laughs quietly] I am glad that [laughs] young people are discovering it, much like I did when I was a young person. That, like you discover your sexuality when you see Michelle Pfeiffer on top of that ladder.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: In the midst of that song as she's straddling that ladder you go, "Ohh!"
[laughs] I'm just saying.

Rileigh: Well...

Sydnee: It's a moment.

Rileigh: Do you think that—

Taylor: Wait, it—[laughs]

Sydnee: What?

Taylor: Sorry. I'm just trying to process the— I mean, I fully endorse Michelle Pfeiffer being awakening of many people's sexuality. But, like, her wrapped in tight, shiny catsuit vinyl is right there and you're like, "Nah! Like, wearin' a Letterman's jacket and singing on a ladder. That's it for me." [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It's the c— yeah. Well, no, okay.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: She's wearing a Pink Ladies jacket, okay?

Taylor: Ohh, okay.

Raleigh: That makes a big difference.

Sydnee: She is wearing, like, leather, I assume, pants. They're leather, pleather, vinyl, something. I don't know. Something black, shiny, and tight, like, the entire movie.

Um, and, like, in others— and, like, she's got that hair, and then there's a scene where she's eating the hamburger? [laughs quietly]

[pause]

Taylor: Oh. Oh, I don't— I—

Sydnee: With the ketchup? [laughs] You really need to watch this movie again. [laughs]

Raleigh: I don't think I do. [laughs]

Sydnee: I think you do!

Raleigh: I think you just described it for me shot-by-shot in enough detail—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: —that I have now seen it again.

Taylor: I'm just trying to understand how you can eat a hamburger sexily. [laughs]

Sydnee: Can I tell you how you find the answer?

Raleigh: You watch *Grease 2*?

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: You watch *Grease 2*!

Taylor: I don't— no, because I don't think I will find it attractive, but I will have the knowledge, "Well, Sydnee thinks this is hot." And I will be uncomfortable!

Raleigh: That's true. I don't—[laughs] that's fair.

Sydnee: They're eating hamburgers and talking about *Hamlet*. And it's just—
[laughs]

Taylor: What?!

Raleigh: You keep saying more like it's gonna make it make more sense to anyone.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: And you more you say, the— just— I— I—[snorts]

Sydnee: I'm just saying. [laughs] Uh, but anyway, "Cool Rider" is a great song. The youth— the youth is right again. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. I think what's more likely though, Syd, is that these— these children found the "Cool Rider" song somewhere on the internet or on another TikTok and just started using it without really ever knowing what it's from or ever having seen *Grease 2*. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Like many of the McElroy sounds I hear on TikTok, in the comments people are like, "Oh, what's this from? Who are those guys?"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: The creator's like, "I don't know, I found it on TikTok!" [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, that's a shame.

Rileigh: So, like, you know, it's possible they have no idea what *Grease 2* is.

Sydnee: But then they don't know about "Girl For All Seasons."

[pause]

Taylor: How does—

Rileigh: And they are better for that. [laughs]

Sydnee: Or "Prowlin'."

Taylor: I'm— how are so many episodes of this podcast just turned into, "And this is another episode about *Grease 2*."

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: We did a *Grease 2* episode, did we not? [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: No!

Sydnee: Oh. [laughs villainously]

Rileigh: Oh no, Taylor!

Taylor: What? I— no, we did! How many times have we talked about this show on this podcast?!

Sydnee: I don't think so.

Rileigh: How have we been doing this new version of this show for a year and you have yet to make us watch *Grease 2*? Because I have not watched it at all recently.

Sydnee: Well, I don't know why you're just putting this out there for me to inflict upon you now.

Rileigh: I just can't believe we made it this far.

Taylor: [groans]

Sydney: Uh-huh. Yeah, you're gonna have to watch *Grease 2*. Not— I'm not next. You're lucky. But...

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I'll quit the podcast after next week.

[all laugh]

Taylor: I was gonna say, you've got two weeks!

[all laugh]

Sydney: It's just one of the most underappreciated films of all time.

Taylor: Oh. I— I'm sure... it is.

Sydney: When you have a— sometimes your brain is busy so you just put a movie on in the back of it, you know? *Grease 2* is always playing in my brain in the back.

Raleigh: Sure. Okay.

Sydney: [laughs] It's just always back there.

[pause]

Taylor: I— I had to— I thought you meant, like—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] I don't know what my brain movie is.

Taylor: —you put a movie on in the background, like, when you're doing something. No, you meant in your head. Like, just, like...

Sydney: Yeah. In my head, *Grease 2* is usually going. During the spooky season, it's *Shock Treatment*. You know, the sequel to *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Raleigh: You are really all about inferior sequels.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: To good movies.

Sydnee: Inferior?

Raleigh: Inferior. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: When I'm doctoring it's usually just *M*A*S*H* episodes goin' on back there.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: To inspire me.

Raleigh: Sure.

Taylor: I don't think you should have anything playing in your brain when you're doctoring, Syd.

Sydnee: There's just— it's a lot of, like— there's a lot of neurons up there that need to be kept busy. [laughs]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [laughs] Syd—

Raleigh: You say, "Here you go, neurons. Here's some *M*A*S*H*."

Taylor: If Sydnee ever focused her brainpower all at once she could, like, make heads explode, so she's gotta keep it partially occupied elsewhere.

Raleigh: It's too powerful.

Sydnee: I could lev—

[all laugh]

Sydnee: I could levitate.

[all laugh]

Taylor: It's a very strange mutant power.

Sydnee: Someday—[laughs] someday at *Limitless* like, I will be able to harness [laughs] all my neurons. If only. Where's the pill? [laughs]

Taylor: Just— just— just keep those movie playing so you don't go Dark Phoenix on us.

Sydnee: Uh, what are we supposed to talk about this week? [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I don't know. The pants and— and *Grease 2* is apparently the topic. No, we're talking about, uh— about *Howl's Moving Castle*, a superior film to—

Raleigh: Yes, I would agree.

Taylor: —*Grease 2*. I'll go out on that limb. [laughs]

Sydnee: It was very good. I enjoyed it very much.

Taylor: Uh, yes. It's a 2004 release by Studio Ghibli. It's a Japanese animation studio. It was directed by Miyazaki himself. Uh, and— uh, it's one of my favorite— my favorite— probably my favorite Miyazaki movie, I'd say.

Sydnee: You know what's funny? We, uh, we turned it on, and I didn't tell Charlie what we were about to watch. And as it came on, she started watching, and she said, "What is this?"

And I said, "Do you recognize it?"

Because her and Justin had been going through a bunch of Miyazaki movies. They were kind of, like, working through all of them, but they hadn't made it to this one yet.

And, uh, she looked and she went, "Oh yeah! These look like the movies that are done by, um... oh, what's the person's name who does the Miyazaki movies?"

[all laugh]

Taylor: Ah, yes.

Sydnee: We were like, "Well, actually... "

Raleigh: "That's it."

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh, but—

Taylor: [simultaneously] Well, he does— oh.

Sydnee: They both enjoyed it though, I will say.

Taylor: I'm glad. I was gonna say, he doesn't direct all of them. Um, in fact he wasn't originally supposed to direct *Howl's Moving Castle* and then, well, you know, kind of got changed up last minute, and he was the director for it. But I think he's recently said that it's one of his favorite movies that he has directed, so, happy accident.

Sydnee: Uh, I— I liked it a lot. I had never— I have seen other Miyazaki movies. I had not seen this one. I wasn't familiar with it at all. I didn't know anything about the story, the plot, the— nothing.

Raleigh: Yeah, me too.

Sydnee: Um, which is why going into it with my children... [laughs quietly] Charlie looked at me pretty quickly and said, "Does Sophie turn young again?" [laughs quietly]

And I was like, "Uhh... I don't know." [laughs]

Raleigh: "I cannot promise you anything."

Sydnee: "I would think, but I— I actually don't know."

And she was like, "[worried] Oh. Okay." And got very nervous. [laughs] Like, "Oh, no. Okay. This is gonna be a rough one. [laughs] I need to leave the room for a little bit. Let me know when she's young again."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "I'm worried about her."

Raleigh: Yeah, I told Sydnee I hadn't realized, as I was watching it I kept thinking, like, "This is like *Ponyo*." Like, Markl was reminding me of *Ponyo*. Like, the character design and the feel of the movie. And, um, I had never seen any other Studio Ghibli films that I was aware of. And then I told Sydnee and we looked it up right before we started and it is a Miyazaki film. Um, and that was the only other experience I had. I remember really enjoying that movie when I was younger. Um, 'cause that came out when I was, like, aware enough to watch movies.

But I really did enjoy this one. Um, I will say, though, maybe it's just because I watched this when I was hungry, the food in this movie—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: —looks so good, every time they eat anything. Like, even that scene where Sophie's just sitting there eating, like, the bread with the cheese on it?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: I wanted that bread with cheese!

Sydnee: Bread and cheese is very good, though.

Raleigh: And all the eggs in the pan with the really big slices of bacon?

Sydnee: The bacon.

Taylor: I feel like that is— that's one of the things. Like, I love the story of *Howl's Moving Castle*, you know, I love the characters, but the aesthetics are just, like... [laughs] so rich. And yes, like, the food. Like, I— that's true in, like, a lot of these movies. Uh, like, the way— the attention they put into it is just so gorgeous and so mesmerizing.

Sydnee: I also think it's so— it's so interesting that, like, you meet Howl. And, like, pretty soon after you meet him and you realize, like, he's sort of magical and mysterious and, like... this beautiful sort of ethereal creature, he's, like, instantly frying bacon and eggs.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: [through laughter] Which I really liked that dichotomy of, "Who is this person? What is this character?"

Raleigh: I had that moment when he came in to stop Sophie from making breakfast so he could do it himself. I was like, "What? How— hmm. I am confused now."

[all laugh]

Sydnee: 'Cause he does not look like a creature who subsists on, like, human food.

Raleigh: Mm-mm.

Sydnee: He looks like he eats magic. And then he's like, "I'll have some bacon and eggs, yeah."

[all laugh]

Taylor: Well, I love— I love the character. I mean, Howl is one of my favorite characters because, you know, yes he's a very... suave, handsome, ethereal man, but then also he's, like, a total drama queen. [through laughter] Like—

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: That, uh— yes. That was actually Cooper's favorite part, um, is when he has the fit about his hair dye.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: And he gets so depressed that he, like, calls upon the dark spirits and then is encased in slime. Uh, Cooper loved that scene and just kept saying, "Can we go back to when the boy was in the slime?"

[all laugh]

Taylor: I love that. I—

Sydnee: "[little kid voice] I wanna see the boy in the sime again."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: That is— I— that— that's [through laughter] probably my favorite scene in the movie. "If I can't be beautiful, I don't want to live!" And then it's just like [unintelligible]

Raleigh: Oh, it's so very good.

Sydnee: He looked fine with the red hair. I don't know why he was so...

Taylor: I don't know.

Sydnee: I— Taylor, can I ask you— I know that this movie is meaningful to you, which is why we're talking about it. Do you feel like you have personally taken some style cues—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —from—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —Howl? [laughs]

Taylor: Uhh... [laughs] I mean... I— you know, maybe? [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Are you callin' me out? [laughs]

Sydnee: I'm just saying, when, like— when you see him and he's, like— he's got— especially early, with the really blond hair and he's, like, flying around with the white shirt and the cape. [laughs] Like, the coat that's sort of, like, cape-like, draped over him.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It just kinda felt like you, Tey. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, you know, I think it's probably because— thank you, that's a compliment. Uh, but I feel like his design is kind of similar to, like— like, *Labyrinth* David Bowie and—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: —like, [through laughter] this is all my aesthetic so, like, it's, you know.

Sydnee: I can see that.

Taylor: It's very... let's be real, it's very gay. [through laughter] It's very, like...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Androgynous, gay. That's— all that good stuff. That's— you know. Uh, and, I mean, I think I personally— I think a lot of people watch the movie and they, like, kind of relate to Sophie who's, like, you know, hard-working and, you know, like, doesn't realize how, like, magical she is.

But I relate to Howl. I'm like, no. Weird hermit drama queen? [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I will fight a war, but if something goes wrong with my roots processing I'm like, "Well, I'm just gonna have to die now."

[all laugh]

Sydnee: "Well, I'm gonna have to summon the dark spirits."

Raleigh: Yep.

Taylor: [through laughter] That is absolutely my capabilities of dealing with things.

Sydnee: I wondered about that. As I was watching I was like, "Oh, I see where Taylor connects with this."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "This feels right." [laughs]

Taylor: But I do— I mean, you know. And I guess, you know, like, not to, like— brief synopsis, it's, you know, there's Sophie who's, like, the hard— hard-working, sort of too serious, old for her age young lady who crosses paths with this eccentric wizard, and... love and romance and adventure ensue.

Uh, but I just— I love the story, because it's— it is a love story, but there's— it's not that kind of cliché, like— which I feel like you think it's gonna go in the direction of. Like, "Oh, they're not gonna be able to stand each other because she's so serious, and he's so... you know, wacky."

It's not. They're, like, kind of gentle with each other from the very beginning, and that's consistent through the whole movie. So it's a really nice, like, soft love story, despite the background of everything else that's going on.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, and then you have the addition of that— of— what's the little— Markl.

Raleigh: Markl.

Sydnee: The little boy.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yes.

Rileigh: Yes. Who, uh, in the American— in the American English dub is Josh Hutcherson, AKA Peeta in *The Hunger Games*.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Um, when he was very little, and I didn't realize that.

Sydnee: I thought that was wild.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I know. Well, that's what I— I had to look up the cast as soon as I started watching and I heard Howl speak, and I was like, "Oh. Who is that? Who— oh, I know who that— who is that?"

And I immediately had to look. I was like, "Who am I— who am I mi—" and it was Christian Bale. [laughs] And I was like, "Okay." [laughs] "I know that voice. I know that voice."

Uh, and that's when I stumbled upon— I was like, "Well, where's Peeta up in this? Oh, he was a kid then!"

Rileigh: He was so little.

Sydnee: He was so little! [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Actually— and, I mean, I think that the— you know, the dub and the sub— I mean, the sub is great, but the dub is very well done. But, uh, it is funny hearing Christian Bale do Howl's voice.

Rileigh: Yes.

Taylor: Because when he— 'cause when Howl, uh— Howl is, like, fighting this seemingly endless war, and he's losing his humanity as he's taking part in it, and he turns into, like, this kind of weird bird creature. And when he does, he speaks in this growl. And it's the Batman voice!

[all laugh]

Rileigh: It's Batman.

Sydnee: Batman.

Rileigh: Yes!

Sydnee: It is very— I noticed that. I was like, "Oh, okay. Now he's Batman."
[laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Yep. This is before— before *The Dark Knight* and all those movies, so this was— this was early debut of the Batman voice. [laughs]

Sydnee: Cooper kept yelling at me when I would say, "Oh, he's a bird again."

She'd go, "He's an owl!"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I can only assume because his name is Howl.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] His name is Howl.

Sydnee: "He's an owl, mommy!"

And I was like, "Oh, okay. Sure."

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: He's super not.

Rileigh: Definitely not.

Sydnee: But okay. [laughs]

Taylor: That is not what an owl looks like. Has your child seen an owl?

Rileigh: Apparently not.

Sydnee: [laughs] I also thought I was, like, helping her understand. But, like, no, she knew that was Howl. Like, she was so on— like, "I know, mom! I know he turned into some— like, I'm watching it."

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: Um, can I ask how they felt about Scarecrow Man?

Sydnee: Not freaked out at all about—

Rileigh: 'Cause I was a little freaked out by it.

Taylor: Really?

Rileigh: So I was wondering how your children—

Sydnee: Turnip—

Rileigh: Turnip Head.

Sydnee: Turnip Head, yeah.

Rileigh: Because not, like... just seeing him move on his own.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Did not— the only thing that freaked 'em out at all was, um... when, like, the... the, uh— what's-her-name's henchman that kind of are like those—

Taylor: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: —um... that big mass of, like, black, gooey, tar-y looking stuff that kind of came through the door at one point towards the later part of the movie. That sort of freaked 'em out a little bit.

Rileigh: That makes sense.

Sydnee: But other than that, like, none of it upset them.

Rileigh: Really?

Sydnee: The other wizards, the creatures they had apparently turned into, like, flying around, doesn't bother 'em. Didn't phase 'em. Couldn't believe that, 'cause I was like, "Well, that's very scary." You know?

Rileigh: Yeah. Interesting.

Sydnee: I know. I thought that was very odd. I figured they would be freaked out.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um... uh, we need to talk more about why this movie is so meaningful to you, Tey. Other than, you know, fashion cues.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And hairstyles.

Taylor: That's— that's literally it. What— that deep.

Sydnee: Oh, okay. Well, then we'll end the episode right after.

[all laugh]

Rileigh: The group message.

Sydnee: Uh, first of all today I want to tell you all about deodorant. Is that okay?

Rileigh: Okay?

Sydnee: Uh, a lot of us like to wear deodorant— and, uh, 'cause you like to feel fresh, you like to smell nice. And, you know, you want to think about what you're puttin' on your body, what you're puttin' on your skin, what you're puttin' up under your arms, there. And Native cares about it just as much as you do. That's why their deodorants' ingredients list include things that you've heard of, like coconut oil, and shea butter. Um, and that's a great addition to your routine this

year, if you're thinking of ways to feel good, and smell nice, and feel fresh under there.

Uh, none of their products are tested on animals, almost everything is vegan, and they have options! They have a line of sensitive deodorant for people with baking soda sensitivities. They've got plastic free deodorants if you're trying to cut down on your use of plastic. They have an unscented option if you prefer that.

Um, I know I go that way with a lot of products these days, because I find— man, this makes— as I get older, I'm more sensitive to scents. [laughs]

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Uh-huh?

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: So for me, Native offering an unscented option is actually a really nice thing to do. I know I am not the only consumer out there who's looking for that.

Um, Taylor, if our listeners want to check out Native deodorant, what should they do?

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

Raleigh: So, um, now that I've gone back to living with other people in my dorm at college, I have remembered that when I go to listen to music, or perhaps—

Sydnee: I thought this was gonna be about deodorant again. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: No, this is not about deodorant again.

Sydnee: "I wear deodorant now." [laughs]

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: Important.

Raleigh: Um— I mean, yes, but no. [laughs] Um, I have remembered I can't just listen to all the things at a normal volume out loud, because sometimes other people are taking a test, or falling asleep. Um, and listening to music or a podcast is very important to me when I am trying to study, or trying to relax, uh, and also trying to give my eyes a break from screens so I can listen without having to look at something.

Um, and that is why I have been using Raycon wireless earbuds. Whether you're like me and you're trying to unplug at the end of the day, um, maybe turn on some Taylor Swift, as I have been doing before I get in bed, or listening to our podcast, you know, when you're working out, your commute, anything like that. Uh, there's no dangling wires or stems to get in your way, which I prefer, so I can move freely about my space and not have to worry about that moment that I have experienced far too many times of walking and being pulled backwards because you're still plugged in to your computer, um, with the wire. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Uh, and also they come in a range of stylish colors, but always with a comfortable in-ear fit for a more discrete look. They're built with water and sweat-resistant construction, and Bluetooth that pairs quickly and seamlessly, and with enough battery life for six hours. So, any amount of time you need it, for any sort of, you know— sweat-resistant, maybe you gotta work out. Um, walking home, maybe it's raining. Water-resistant. You got it all.

And the best part is that Raycon makes great sound accessible to everyone with wireless earbuds starting at half the price of other premium audio brands, so we all can get up in that— that audio... game. I— what— I don't know.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Audio game.

Sydnee: Audio game.

Raleigh: [laughs] So, Taylor, if our listeners want to check out Raycon earbuds, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, Raycon's offering 15 percent off all their products for our listeners. And here's what you gotta do to get it. Go to buyraycon.com/buffering. That's it! You'll get 15 percent off your entire Raycon order, so feel free to grab a pair and a spare. That's 15 percent off at buyraycon.com/buffering. Once again, buyraycon.com/buffering, get your 15 percent off.

Sydney: One thing I did wanna notice— or I didn't wanna— I noticed and a wanted to mention about it is I thought it was interesting that Billy Crystal was in the English dub. Because I think— as Calcifer, as the fire.

Raleigh: Calcifer, yeah.

Sydney: Uh, I think it— I have noticed this in some of these other movies. Um, the American voice actors that they get are a lot of big names.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydney: Um, and I think it just underscores, sometimes I think we forget how huge these movies are, because that unfortunately happens a lot to animated films where, like, they're just not... people don't recognize what an impact they have, and how big they are, and these were big movies. They have big names in them, you know?

Taylor: Yeah. Well, Christian Bale, like, actively seeked out being in this film. He said he would play any role, he just wanted to be in it. And, you know—

Sydney: Wow!

Raleigh: Wow!

Taylor: —got the lead. But yeah. Yeah, I think— I mean, I love... I love Billy Crystal as Calcifer. [through laughter] Like, the sub is great, but I just adore the voice he does, and the acting. It's such— such a good character.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: He really is. And that was— and he's so instantly recognizable. That's what— we turned it on and, like, very early into it Justin was like, "Am— am I hearing Billy Crystal?"

[all laugh]

Sydnee: I think so. And I recognized Emily Mortimer right away. I was like, "Oh, I know that voice!" [laughs]

Rileigh: That character design— just the very round, big eyes on the fire. From the very beginning was like, "Oh, I like this. I enjoy this."

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: But I also felt that way about all of the characters. Like, I feel like— like, the little kids, like, Markl was designed in a way— it's like, "Oh. So small. So cute."

And Sophie when she's younger and when she's older, both just, like— they're all very endearing character sketches that, like, are all very different, distinct, but also you just, like— you get happy looking at all of them.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Except the dog's feet.

[pause]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Okay?

Taylor: Oh, yeah, it's got those weird little, like, chicken feet or something like that. Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: I guess, okay.

Sydnee: That was the only thing. Every time I would look at the dog's feet I would be like, "[shudders]" [laughs]

Rileigh: That's fair. Okay.

Sydnee: 'Cause even I thought the Witch of the Wastes after she, like, is... I don't know. Aged, I guess?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is what happens to her. Like, I thought she was pretty adorable. [laughs]

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, but yeah. And the dog was cute, other than the feet. Every time I looked at the feet I was like, "Ohh... what are you— what are you up to, there? What—" I kept thinking the dog was gonna do something. I was like, "Those feet make me nervous." [laughs]

Taylor: There is more— 'cause I will say this. So, *Howl's Moving Castle* is based on a book of the same name by Diana Wynne Jones, who is originally a British author. And there is more— a lot more in the book, and I think that there are several books. But, um, there's a— there's a bigger explanation for the dog.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: Like, it's, like, cobbled together from other people or something like that. Like, I think there's a reason the dog's kinda funky. But by the time it made it to the movie it's like, "I don't know. It's a dog with chicken feet. Whatever." [laughs]

Sydnee: That— I know. I kept waiting for that. I was like, "Okay, so we're just... we're just gonna roll with it. That's just the way this dog is."

Taylor: Yep.

Sydnee: "Alright! Alright, then." [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Um, I also— I have to say, the, um— the reveal of Turnip Head as Prince Turnip Head—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: —at the end, really struck me as funny.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Um—[laughs quietly] just because, like— so he's a p— he's been a prince this whole time, which I had accidentally ruined for myself when I looked up voice actors. I saw that Turnip Head was listed as Prince Turnip Head and I was like, "Hmm... hmm... " [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh, no.

Sydnee: "Oh, no. I think that— I think that scarecrow's a prince." And, uh—

[all laugh]

Sydnee: —and— and he's, like— he's basically, like— Sophie turns him back into a prince, 'cause—

Raleigh: True love's kiss.

Sydnee: —true love's kiss. Works every time.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Thank you, *Descendants*. And so that happens. And he's like, "Oh, but she loves that other guy. Well, it's okay. I'm gonna go home, I'm gonna stop this war—"

Raleigh: Stop the war! [laughs]

Sydnee: "—and then I'm gonna come back, 'cause you don't know, she might get bored of him." [laughs quietly] And, like, that's that! "Off I go. Prince Turnip Head."

[all laugh]

Taylor: [through laughter] Yeah.

Sydnee: And then he, like, bounces away on a pole! [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] It does seem kind of like the framing of the movie is that maybe this war is started because of this missing prince, but it's definitely in the background. It's just like, "Okay. Oh, that's— that's resolved. Sure." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, 'cause then, uh, what's-her-face— what's the— the bad woman, the queen? Um...

Taylor: Oh, the sorceress.

Sydnee: Uh, yes. She's— at the end there she's just like, "Well, I guess we'll end the war." [laughs] "'Cause that's enough. Call the Minister of Defense." [laughs]

Taylor: But here's the interesting thing about the presence of the war in this movie. So, this was— I don't think— it's not really, like, in the books. This was the backdrop that Miyazaki chose for this film, because it came out during the— when the, uh, Iraq war was starting, and he was very outspoken against it. Um, and, you know, he just felt like it was just, you know, more endless war where there's not any point to it. It's just, you know, war for the sake of war.

Uh, so that was— that was included, that kind of— the idea that the war is pointless and that you can't really tell if there's a good side or a bad side, it's just war, was very important to Miyazaki, 'cause that's his— he's very much a pacifist. He's very anti-war. And he even said, like, this movie is— it's, like, not gonna do well in America because this is kind of a condemnation of American politics. In the most, like, light, fanciful, beautiful way.

Raleigh: Yeah. I did think that was interesting, that he said that this movie is going to make Americans uncomfortable, and he was, like, intentionally making a movie that wouldn't do very well in America, because this is what he wanted to— to make it about. But, I mean, then it did.

Sydnee: I can't imagine a lot of Americans would've... I mean, I picked up on it. Like, I thought it was it was pretty unsubtle when Howl is going back off to the war, and Calcifer warns him, like, you can't— if you stay too long you'll be changed for— you'll turn into something else.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] You won't be able to— yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Like all those other wizards who will never be able to turn back now that they've kind of committed to being part of these atrocities and all that this is going on. They'll never be able to turn back into themselves.

I mean, that's a very clear allegory for, like, you know, someone who is very anti-war, and if you take part in these things you can, you know, you'll lose yourself.

Rileigh: Sure.

Sydnee: I felt like that was a pretty obvi— but it didn't— it didn't come across to me as, like, anti-military or anything that you would assume would offend American sensibilities. It was just like, "Hey, wars are bad." Which I think we can all get on board with. Like, yes, we'd prefer there not be wars. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah. Although I will say I did appreciate how, like, even at the very, very beginning the soldiers and, like, the whole, like, parade going on and everything is made to look very, like, kind of ridiculous, and the soldiers are as well. Um, and it's over the top, it's exaggerated, and they're— they kind of aren't good people when they encounter Sophie, um, the first time, right at the beginning. And then they, like, ridiculously march away or whatever. And their bright, tacky costumes that they're wearing.

I did appreciate that. Um, I didn't make the connection that it was, like, commentary on something happening in America, but I feel like you would've been more likely to if you would've been watching this when it came out in 2004, and that was happening. Um, but I did appreciate that, because I could feel that right from the beginning. It was like, "Look how ridiculous these people are." [laughs]

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But it is— it is true, though, that it's still, you know— it's still such a well-designed movie that all of the warships and stuff are so cool to look at. [laughs] But it's like, "War bad. But big ships cool." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and I think, um, there's a lot about that, like, that message can be kind of hidden amongst— there's so much about transformation in there, um, that you can read into. Like, there's Sophie who very obviously, like, um, underappreciates, undervalues, and sees, like, herself as, um, not— not having anything to contribute, really, or say, or to be forgotten, or whatever. And, like, she is transformed into someone whose time on Earth is close to over, you know?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: As if, like, "Well, now you've become someone who no longer is taking part in the action."

Um, and she, like, fights back, which I really loved with the animation. Where, like, it struck me all of a sudden. Like, "Oh, she's a little younger." Like, it didn't occur to me right away as I was watching it. Like, she didn't turn from herself to the old woman back to herself. Like, it was a backwards growth, um, and I thought that was really cool to watch, as she began to realize that she still had more to do and to say and to contribute, and that, you know, she did have a voice, and that kind of thing. Like, you could see that happen. Um, but that whole transformation was happening. And there is with Howl, too. The very obvious, like, he traded his heart for a shooting star. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, as you do. Magic powers. [laughs]

Raleigh: Right. I did, uh— I read about the themes of the movie after I watched it, um, kind of seeing what people had, like, taken from it, or how it was supposed to be interpreted, those kinds of things. And I did like at the end when it said Sophie goes back, but her hair is still white, that Miyazaki wanted to do that because he wanted to show that she was still, like, carrying the maturity with her, and, like, everything she had learned and experienced, even though she was younger again. She hadn't, like, lost all of that that she had gotten in the in between, and I liked that. That was very— that was very good.

Taylor: Yeah. I mean, that's— that's one thing I do— like, Sophie's story line, it does so many things right. And, like, for one, I think her acceptance of her new way of life [through laughter] is just, like, you know, not really any freak out.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Just like, "Well, this fits me better." But, um— but just, like, the— she gets, like, these two— like, a prince and then this magical magician wizard to fall in love with her, but she's this old lady. You know, she accomplishes so much. She, like, pulls together this whole family. And this is all done when she's presenting as this old woman. And I think that, you know, it's true. Like, by the end it's not like she's realized that, you know, oh, she needs to change and be more lighthearted. It's that she's realized how much strength who she is has, and how— how powerful she is in who she is, and that's how she kind of finds herself, but is also transformed. And, you know, kind of embraces who she's been all along.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It's funny, 'cause with a story line like this, you have the potential for it to come across as very, like, ageist in a sense. Like, the bad thing that happened to her is that now she's an older person.

Um, but instead, I think it's very, like, triumphant about what she can accomplish and do, and that the fact that she's an older person doesn't matter. And they— they, like, further that story line with the Witch of the Wastes, who is, like, sort of reviled until she is the age that she's supposed to be. And then she's, like, embraced, and loved, and celebrated, and respected.

Like, they don't just toss her off. And Howl keeps asking that. Like, "Why did you bring her here?"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter] Like, "What—" like, "Sophie, what is this? Like, she was bad. She made you— she cast a spell on you! Like, why did you bring her?"

And, I mean, there's just this sort of, like, understanding. Like, "Well, we... we respect her, and we appreciate her, and we will value her now."

And, um, I think that's a really nice message. I liked that mess— I want to see that message more in this country.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well—

Raleigh: Yeah. Uh... go ahead.

Taylor: I was gonna say, well, that's— and I think that the kind of growing family— you know, 'cause that's the thing. There's— yes, there's a romantic story, but I think the bigger heart of the story is more about family, and more about that, you know, having a place to belong. Having a home, which kind of goes to, like, the— the moving, roaming castle versus having, like, a place that is yours, and people that you belong to, which I think is, you know, a bit more of an adult, like, story line than just, "Oh, find somebody to fall in love with." [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydney: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, when I was watching— and maybe I just— like, it went entirely over my head. I was a little bit surprised as it— like, you realize that it was, like, a romantic connection happening there. I was not expecting any sort of romantic story line. Like, throughout the first— like, the beginnings of the movie. I was seeing it more so as, like, just two people on this adventure, and she might go back to being young, and he will realize something about himself, and they will both grow, and that will be it. I didn't see it as a romantic thing. And, like, it wasn't... it didn't feel, like, forced, once it got there. Like, it made sense, but it wasn't a story that needed it. Like, it was very much on its own a story about growth and, yeah, finding family and finding a home without the... the romantics.

Sydney: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: The love.

Sydney: No, that's very true. Because I think that, um, Howl getting his heart back at the end, it's a very literal thing. He literally gets his heart back. But then, like, the— the allegory there is he got his heart back 'cause he found love, not

just in Sophie but, like, his family. Like, he— and he— and now he can no longer have a magic castle that wanders around. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, then it flies. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Now he has to set up shop. And, like, he talks about how his chest feels so heavy. And I don't know. That's a very nice, like, yes, this is what happens. And that is so much more true, too, when you have, like, a lot of people that all of a sudden you're responsible for and care about. Where it's an overwhelming... good, but overwhelming feeling. Um, it's very much like having children, I would say.

Raleigh: Really?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Interesting.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Well, and I—

Sydnee: It's—

Taylor: —oh, go ahead.

Sydnee: —good, but overwhelming.

Taylor: Well, and I like how they show, like, the steps of him getting to there. Because, you know, there's sort of the midpoint where he has found— there's this family that has grown around him, and he wants to keep them safe, but he also wants to be away from them. It's like, "I'm gonna put you here, and you're gonna be fine, and I'm gonna go." [laughs] [through laughter] And Sophie's like, "No! [laughs] That's not how this works!"

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "I gotta be a bird again."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [through laughter] "I gotta go be a bird! I gotta fight planes!"

Sydnee: That's also why you like Howl! Howl can turn into a bird!

Raleigh: Ohh!

Taylor: Yes! [laughs] Eccentric hermit with good style, and is bird.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Okay. Can you turn—[quietly] can you turn into a bird?

Taylor: Hmm? [laughs]

Raleigh: Is this— okay.

Taylor: Hmm?

Sydnee: [through laughter] This is— this is autobiographical.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Yes. Uh, you don't hear it, but when Jack talks it's with the voice of Billy Crystal, 'cause he's got my heart.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Ahh, okay.

Taylor: [laughs] No. But, uh— but I don't— I mean, it's just— it's such a, like, the way that the story develops and the characters change, I just think it's so— it's— it's not cliché. It's very original, and I think it almost lampshades so many things that I think a lot of, like, anime does, you know? Where there's just, like,

the two love interests, and [mockingly] oh, they hate each other, and they fight! [normal tone] And then, you know, like, the harem animes where everybody falls in love with the main girl because she's beautiful. You know, it's, like, all of that is sort of— it's there, but it's very much turned to kind of reflect on that.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: Well, I very much enjoyed it.

Rileigh: I did, too.

Sydnee: I'm glad that you suggested it 'cause, uh, I really liked watching it, and Charlie and Cooper both did. Cooper immediately wanted to watch it again so she could see the slime part again [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Sure.

Taylor: That's the best scene. [laughs]

Rileigh: It was a very pleasant break for me, for my brain. Like, something that didn't— you know, didn't make me sad, didn't require, like, a lot of deep thought. Like, it made you think about it, but you didn't have to— you know, you could just enjoy it. And that was nice.

Taylor: Just look at the beautifully rendered bacon. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: The beautiful bacon! I don't even like bacon and eggs that much. I'm not even a breakfast person, but when I saw that pan full of that giant bacon and all those eggs, I...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: It looked so good!

Sydnee: It really did. Although I would've taken the bread and cheese, I think.

Rileigh: Oh, the bread and cheese.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: All of it.

Sydnee: Sorry, Tey. This part— it was, like, a vegan nightmare for you.

Taylor: Well, I mean, but that's the thing. I— I literally can't eat anything that they cook in this movie, but it all looks great. I will fully admit that. Like, I would eat that. I'll eat fantasy bacon. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I'll eat *Moving Castle* bacon.

Raleigh: [quietly] *Moving Castle* bacon.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, thank you, Tey.

Raleigh: Yeah. Thank you, Tey.

Taylor: Well, thank you. Thank you for watching this with me.

Sydnee: Alright. Raleigh?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: What's next?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm? Um—

Sydnee: Oh no.

Raleigh: —I'm very excited. [laughs quietly] For next week. Because I was trying to think of a movie that was, uh, very important to me when I was much younger. You know, I've talked about ones more recently. Um, but thinking back to my childhood, maybe my first real obsession with a movie, you could say, um, was of course *High School Musical*.

Sydnee: Oh my goodness.

Raleigh: It has music. We all love musicals.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Raleigh: Now it is a stage show and a TV series.

[pause]

Sydnee: I feel like it's weird that you give me such a hard time for *Grease 2*—

Raleigh: Wha—!

Sydnee: —and we're about to watch *High School Musical*.

Taylor: [crosstalk]

Raleigh: Well, you don't have to watch the second ones and the third one.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Just the first one.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: Hmm.

Raleigh: Just the first one.

Sydnee: I have— I have zero familiarity with this.

Raleigh: Really?

Sydnee: I know.

Raleigh: Charlie— Charlie will like it. Um, because there is a main character that is a blonde girl that—

Sydnee: Sharpay.

Raleigh: —has everything pink, yes.

Sydnee: I've heard that name. That is the only— that's— I was gonna say, I think there's some basketball, and there's a girl named Sharpay. [laughs]

Raleigh: Um, I have very strong feelings about this movie now that I've watched it again as an adult.

Taylor: Oh, wow.

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: So, yes.

Sydnee: Alright. Well... there we go.

Raleigh: I'm very excited.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: It's on Disney+.

Sydnee: From Miyazaki... to *High School Musical*.

Taylor: Alright.

Raleigh: It makes sense.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Well, thank you both. This has been very fun. I look forward to, uh, our next film. [laughs quietly] And thank you, listeners. I hope you enjoyed it. If you want to tweet at us, you can tweet at us @stillbuff, you can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. Maximumfun.org is a website with podcasts. Lots of them. You should listen to them. They're great.

Uh, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays in the background]

Rileigh: [quietly] Get your head in the game, guys. Gotta get your head in the game.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Sorry, *Grease 2*— *Grease 2* is finishing in my head right now.

Taylor: Is that— is that what you have on when you podcast, Sydnee? Is that what's in the back— back of the brain?

[music ends]

Rileigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Maybe? [laughs]

Taylor: Aw, man.

[music plays]

Tre'Veil: Hey there, beautiful people. Did you hear that good, good news?

Jarrett: Something about the baby Jesus?

Tre'Veil: Mm-hmm, he's coming back!

Jarrett: Or—

Tre'Veil: [laughs]

Jarrett: —do you mean the fact that Apple Podcasts has named *FANTI* one of the best shows of 2020?

Tre'Veil: I mean, we already knew that we was hot stuff, but a little external validation never hurts, okay?

Jarrett: Hosted by me, writer and journalist Jarrett Hill.

Tre'Veil: And me, the ebony enchantress myself—

Jarrett: [laughs]

Tre'Veil: —Tre'Veil Anderson.

Jarrett: *FANTI* is your home for complex conversations about the gray areas in our lives: the people, places, and things we're huge fans of, but got some anti feelings toward.

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