

Still Buffering 251: iCarly (2007-2012)

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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: So, it's gettin' warm out there.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Gettin' excited?

Rileigh: Yeah. Put on short sleeves today and I wasn't cold.

Sydnee: Yeah?

Rileigh: That's nice.

Sydnee: [laughs] That's a good thing.

Rileigh: Drove with my windows down. That was nice.

Sydnee: We're finally at a temperature where I want to be outside. There's always, like—there's the temperature where the children want to go outside, and it's not quite where I'm ready—although Mom doesn't care.

Rileigh: No.

Sydnee: Mom will take 'em outside when it's, like, 40 degrees and just be like, "It's fine."

Rileigh: Well, they also wanna go outside when it's snowing.

Sydnee: [quietly] Yeah...

Rileigh: And it's, like, 20 degrees.

Sydnee: I hate that.

Rileigh: I hate that. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I don't like cold weather.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: Spring is a fine stopping point, but it's really just a way to get to summer for me.

Taylor: Yeah. Although this is—this is when we're in that grind of, like, I don't mind it being cold in the months that are supposed to be cold, but once we get into the gray area of, "This month could be nice, it's just not. It's just chosen to not be," [through laughter] I take it personally.

Rileigh: I just—I hate—this is very common in West Virginia. I don't know if this is how, like, weather shifts in other places, but I feel like we have a solid month where you wake up in the morning and it's cold enough or chilly enough that you need, like, a sweater or a jacket at least and, like, long pants, but by the afternoon, like, if you're leaving school, leaving work, whatever, it is so hot. And it's just hot. There's no middle. Like, there's no warm weather here, really. It just goes from being winter to being summer.

Sydnee: It's hard to, uh—I remember this problem from last year, although obviously it's not a problem this year, uh, to dress your kid for school when you know that, like, they need a winter coat in the morning, but by the afternoon they're gonna be playing outside and sweating their little butts off. [laughs quietly]

Um, it—yeah. Right now it doesn't matter, 'cause school is here, here is school.

Rileigh: School is everywhere and also nowhere. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: School is around us and—yeah. [laughs] Everywhere and nowhere is school right now. We—it's fun, though. The teachers—I will say, Charlie's teacher has adapted a lot of this where we had to do, like, a nature walk and look at a tree, so that was, like, a good thing you can just do at home. Like, we went outside and looked at a tree, and we had to write some stuff down about the tree.

Raleigh: [laughs] I miss—

Taylor: Just any tree? [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah, just a tree. We had to figure out if it was alive or dead.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Wow!

Sydnee: I also—I was overhearing their lesson. It was about things that are living. Like, what a living thing is.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Uh, and so then I totally freaked Charlie out by being like, "You know what we don't know is really—if it's really living or dead is a virus."

And Charlie was like, "What?" [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Sydnee!

Taylor: Why'd you have to go there? This is a child.

Raleigh: Don't freak her out. She's too young.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Cooper really liked it.

Raleigh: Well... it makes sense. That checks out.

Sydnee: That's about right.

Rileigh: I miss when school was just looking at trees.

Taylor: Yeah...

Rileigh: That was so much nicer. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I, uh—I broke a twig and I said, "See? It's green inside, so you can tell it's still wick." That's from *The Secret Garden*. That was not a reference that my six-year-old got. [laughs]

Rileigh: No, of course it wasn't! [laughs]

Sydnee: You remember when the—never mind. Just—it's in *The Secret Garden*.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

[pause]

Taylor: Well—

Sydnee: But that's how you tell it's still alive.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's how you tell it—'cause it's green inside.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: The parsley survived.

Rileigh: That's good.

Taylor: [laughs loudly]

Sydnee: In my herb buckets. The parsley survived the ice storm? It was encased in ice and thawed and it's still green and fresh, and parsley. How does that happen?

Taylor: I don't know. You should do something special with that. That's survivor parsley.

Raleigh: My guinea pig loves it.

Sydnee: The girls picked it all and put it in a bag to give to your guinea pig.

Taylor: Oh. Well, alright. That's—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —I mean, that's... that's not what I—okay. That's special, I guess.
[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: She goes wild.

Sydnee: Will the guinea pig get superpowers, right? From—

Raleigh: Now that's the question!

Sydnee: —eating this parsley.

Taylor: That was my thought. Like, make it into some sort of salve or tonic. No, you can feed it to a guinea pig. The guinea pig lives forever. That's cool. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I mean—I mean, I'd be fine with that. Parsley is like—like catnip for guinea pigs.

Taylor: Oh!

Raleigh: That's what, um, Charlie kept calling it. Ruthnip.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Because, like, her name is Ruth, like catnip. Um, but she just—she starts doin', like, flips, and jumpin' up and down. Maybe it's extra powerful. I don't know.

Sydnee: Maybe it will, uh, give Ruth Elsa-like powers.

Taylor: No, you don't want those!

Raleigh: I don't want those.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I don't want her to be able to freeze everything when she's angry.

Sydnee: [through laughter] This—this is my—

Raleigh: Because when I don't give her all the carrots she wants, when I say, "No, you've had so many today," she gets so mad, and then it would be—every day would be winter.

Sydnee: "This is my guinea pig. She has emotional control over the weather."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: That would—wait, are we sure—how—how—have you fed Ruth the magic parsley before, and that big blizzard, that ice storm that y'all had...

Raleigh: Hmm...

Sydnee: Hmm...

Taylor: Just saying. Just saying. Are we... is there—'cause that would be really hard to figure out if the cause of your horrible, like, magical winter weather was a—a non-communicative guinea pig.

Sydnee: Have you considered this?

Raleigh: I had not considered this until this very moment.

Sydnee: Well, now you have.

Raleigh: I'll have to ask her when I get home.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Hmm... hold on. [hesitantly] Does she answer you?

Raleigh: ... Maybe?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm...

Taylor: Well, that's—that's a bigger problem.

Raleigh: We have—listen. Listen.

Sydnee: Raleigh, you're vaccinated. You've gotta get out of the house a little bit now.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Okay? I mean, I am all for caution. Like, don't go out without a mask and all that, but you gotta get out a little bit. [laughs]

Raleigh: Listen. I have only had Ruth during the pandemic times.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Raleigh: I got her during the pandemic. We've only been together during the pandemic. She's like basically an extension of my psyche. Sometimes I'm like, "Can everyone see her? Everyone else sees her, right? She's there. She's not just something I've created."

Sydnee: Okay, again—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —small gatherings with low-risk or other vaccinated people are okay now. Get out of the house! [laughs]

Taylor: I have entire conversations with Jack. I don't think that this is... I'm not one to judge. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Exactly.

Sydnee: Well, uh... what are we—I don't have a transition. What are we talking about this week, Raleigh?

Raleigh: We're talking about *iCarly*. [laughs] Um, I—it, uh, it was one of my favorite shows growing up as a preteen and a tween. Um, and it's getting a reboot this year, so it felt timely. It just dropped on Netflix recently, so everyone's been talking about it again, rewatching it.

I rewatched it, thought "Man, she was like the original YouTuber. We gotta talk about this." Also, it's comin' back. It's perfect.

Sydnee: It's interesting, because I had never watched it, and as I was watching it I was trying to think, like, "So it's just a kid who's a YouTuber?"

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Which is, like, whatever, now. But, like, I guess this must've been—her life must've seemed pretty wild and unique and cool back in 2007.

Raleigh: Yes. Yeah. 'Cause, I mean, you had said before we had started, what, that 2005 is when YouTube, like, became a thing?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. That's what Google told me.

Raleigh: Yeah. But I feel like people weren't using it for, like, their own personal web show or vlogging purposes or whatever for, like, a few years after that. Like, it had—there were lots of, like, viral videos and stuff like that going on, but not lots of individual YouTubes. Certainly not people getting, like, super famous from it. That was not a thing.

And, you know, she's an ordinary girl... [holding back laughter] in an ordinary world. But, um, then she's, like, super internet famous, which is something that is weird to me rewatching it, because I didn't ever remember her actually being that popular. Like, I knew their web show had a lot of viewers but, like, I didn't remember how many. But they get, like, hundreds of thousands of people watching their live webcast.

Sydnee: Is that what it is?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: 'Cause their first video makes it to 37,000, which I already thought, like, "Well, pretty good for your first video." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. By the time they—they keep goin' on, they get hundreds of thousands of viewers, and they get invited to, like, the *iCarly* equivalent of, like, VidCon, where they have all these fans, and... they get nominated for, like, internet awards.

Sydnee: They're on... Splash... book?

Taylor: Face... splash?

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Splashface.

Sydnee: Facesplash. Splashface! Is that what it—what is it?

Raleigh: They're on icarly.com.

Sydnee: Yes, but then they...

Raleigh: But their, like—their equivalent of internet, like, Facebook... main internet website is Splashface.

Sydnee: Splashface. That's what it is.

Raleigh: This is like—there's a whole network of shows all on Nickelodeon that all came out around the same time, all by the same, like, team of people. Which I wanna know before we talk about this show, the man who is responsible for creating this show as well as, like, *Drake and Josh*, *Zoey 101*, *Victorious*, all those shows that were in this same universe, um, is a very bad person, and it has been come out since all these shows were aired that he was somewhat abusive to the young girls on set, and kind of creepy, and...

Sydnee: Hmm.

Raleigh: ... all those kinds of things. Um, bad guy. I want to put that out there. I'm not saying that, like, he is a good guy because I enjoyed his show. Um, but he created this whole universe of—of Nickelodeon shows.

Sydnee: I didn't know they were all connected.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Are these the same ones where instead of an apple they would have a pear?

Raleigh: Pear, mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: Yeah. So, like, in one of the episodes of *iCarly* they're at VidCon basically, and two of the guys in the audience are the two nerdy friends from *Drake and Josh*, and one of the girls in the audience is, like, the cotton swab nerdy girl from *Zoey 101*. Um, so yeah. They all cross over. Um, and also a lot of the people in them are used in the—the shows.

So, like, Spencer in *iCarly*, and Carly, were both in *Drake and Josh* before *iCarly*.

Sydnee: And it's really interesting, because they, uh, like—the whole—the first episode is really just "Hey, we should have a web show."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And then they have a web show.

Raleigh: Then they have a web show.

Sydnee: And that's the rest of—I didn't watch the entire series, but as far as I can tell that's just—the antics, teen antics and web show.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is that pretty much it?

Rileigh: Sometimes there's, like, some wacky dating, and, um, web show. And hijinks, and web show.

Sydnee: And they get more famous, and the fame becomes a problem?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Sort of?

Rileigh: Like, they start having other problems because of their—their fame.

Sydnee: Their fame.

Rileigh: Their fame.

Taylor: But there is—

Rileigh: But they're all, you know, silly. Silly goofs.

Taylor: I just—I watched, uh, like, the first—I watched what's on Netflix, which is the first two seasons. I got through about one and a half. Uh, but it's kind of—am I wrong in saying there's not a lot of, like, continual plot points? Like, what happens in one episode is sort of isolated to that episode.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Not a lot changes over time.

Rileigh: That's very true. There are very few plot points that carry through multiple episodes. Um, I mean, like the main character things, like relationships and stuff like that, usually continue on. But in terms of, like, things that happen episode to episode, there is little to no consequence [laughs quietly] in future episodes. Which is why I think it was just always one of those shows that was always on, because they would play episodes in random order on Nickelodeon all the time, in sequence with old shows from the same family of shows, and you could pretty much just watch any of them, and there was no need to watch ones before.

Sydnee: I skipped around so I could get a flavor of different seasons, and I couldn't—it was... indistinguishable. Other than, like, I could tell the kids had aged.

Rileigh: Yeah, that is the thing that's most noticeable, is they all start—which was the thing about these shows. They did cast people properly. Like, the teenagers in the show that were supposed to be 13 or 14 were actually, like, 14 years old when the show started, which is nice. Because now, you know, like, Riverdale has cast, like, people in their mid-20's as 16-year-olds, so...

Sydnee: Sure.

Rileigh: At least they were casting age appropriately. But then you do see them, like, go through puberty, and Freddy's voice gets deeper, and gets taller, and they all look different.

Sydnee: Yeah. That's also tough, though, 'cause sort of calling back to what you had referenced, um, that's gotta be hard for kids at that age. As much as, like, she's a YouTuber before there were YouTubers, and that would be rough, that could be a tough existence to be on the internet and be famous when you're that young, I mean, it was sort of meta. 'Cause, like, that's the same for all the actors on the show.

Rileigh: Yeah. I know, uh, Jennette McCurdy, who played Sam, has talked about that a lot since the show has ended, and she said, you know, she won't go back for the reboot, and she has retired from acting. That is no longer her, um, career, but she has said that, you know, growing up in the public eye and constantly being talked about, her appearance or her personality or whatever, and all these powerful men being producers and creators and, you know, telling her what to do at all times, um, was a very toxic growing up experience.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Which, I mean, you see happen with, like, lots of Disney and Nickelodeon people, right?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: No, I mean, that's very—that's—child actors who struggle, or child performers like Britney Spears, you know.

Taylor: Well, and Amanda Bynes was also under this umbrella. And, I mean, she's clearly had a lot of struggles in her later years.

Sydnee: Or like Lindsay Lohan, yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm, yeah. Amanda Bynes was on *The Amanda Show*, which... if I'm not mistaken was the first show of this, like, family of shows. Um, and where you got a lot of the other characters that came from that show into the other ones. But yeah, that was, I mean, Amanda Bynes first big thing. And she started that show when she was, like, 13 I think.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Hm.

Raleigh: Or 14. Um, so they were all very young.

Sydnee: It's interesting, though, to see people talking about the internet before the internet had taken over everything.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Which, I mean, in 2007, like, we're gettin' there. But it's still not all of the world yet. Um, and early on, they talk about—they're trying to get more viewers, and they have a competition to get more viewers. And none of the stuff they do works, and they fail, but they put their failures out there, and their failures get them so many more viewers than if they had been successful in their endeavors.

And they're like, "Can you believe that?" And now in 2021, hearing that, I'm like, "Well... "

Raleigh: Of course.

Sydnee: "Yeah." Like, that's the whole... that's all inter—of course that's what the internet is. Like, what do you mean? "Can you believe our failures and, like, mess-ups got more views than if we had done it right?" Like...

Rileigh: Definitely.

Sydnee: Uh—uh-huh? But they're, like, discovering this. [laughs] Denovo. And it's wild to watch. It's like, "Yeah, okay?"

Rileigh: And I mean, 2007 was—wasn't that when the first iPhone came out? There weren't even...

Sydnee: Oh, I don't know.

Rileigh: ... iPhones, like, in mass circulation, I think, in 2007.

Taylor: I—yeah?

Rileigh: I think that's when they first came out.

Taylor: Uh, yeah. They—they definitely—around then or later, 'cause I—I know I—

Sydnee: Let me look on my iPhone. [laughs]

Taylor: —I had a Razr at the time. I had a Razr flip phone in 2007. [laughs]

Rileigh: Oh, Razr.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yeah.

Sydnee: I had a Razr at some point.

Rileigh: But, I mean, they don't even have—like, in the beginning of the show, they're teens and they don't have cell phones.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: Yes, 2007.

Rileigh: Yeah. So, I mean, as the show goes on—and it went on for five seasons, I think, technically? So it went on all the way through 2012 or 2013, so

by the end of the show they had, like, Pear Pads and Pear Phones that were iPads, iPhones.

Sydnee: Well, it's funny, 'cause in that same episode, in their attempt to get more viewers, the way they do it is to try to put a sign up in the physical world that will get, like, physical eyes on it. And then they try to, like, go on a TV show to use the power of TV to get more viewers for their internet show. And, like, I was thinking about like, "Well, why aren't you just coming up with other things to do that'll make your videos go viral?"

And it's like, was that just not a...

Raleigh: Not a thing, I guess.

Sydnee: I guess that wasn't, like, a... you know what I mean? Like, obviously if you're trying to draw more people to your show it would be something you would do on your show. Not in 2007, I guess. [laughs]

Raleigh: And the show they go on on TV to put up a sign to tell people to watch is, like, MTV.

Sydnee: It was TRL.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It was—it was. It was basically TRL. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. It is a very weird—it's a very weird moment in TV, because there's still remnants of, like, late 90's, early 2000's culture. But also, just with the beginning touches of the internet being, like, everywhere, and internet stars.

Sydnee: Well, and it's still people trying to make TV—trying to make these stories about now—well, and by "now" I mean, like, about 2007—who did not come up with any of that technology. I mean, like, those were the people who were trying to tell these stories, who had, like, "I am trying to read to understand what the heck they're talking about."

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Um, but it is interesting. Because, like, the kids have no problem creating and uploading content to the internet. Like, that is not shown as any sort of barrier. Uh, and not just, like—early on, you kind of establish Freddy as, like, the tech—like, the geeky kid who knows tech, but that's true for your main characters, too. Like, Carly and Sam also can use the internet, you know. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I—

Raleigh: And they, uh—go ahead.

Taylor: Oh, no, I—go ahead.

Raleigh: Um, I was just gonna say, it is—it's odd to see, like, sketch comedy almost is what they did, kind of.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: On the internet. And that is not—people don't have, like, web shows as frequently anymore that's, like, sketch comedy.

Sydnee: That's true. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: But I do think it was pretty, like, uh... predictive of the—the attention span that we've now developed with what's popular on the internet, because that frenetic energy that they have on their web show where it's like, "Here's a bit, and here's a bit, and here's a video of someone doing something silly, and here's another video of something silly!"

Like, that is where we've evolved to with what we like on the internet. I mean, their whole thing was, "Let's bring on people that do silly things in very short segments." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, that's very true, and their patter—it's weird. When you hear, like, the way they talk to the camera, the way that, like—you didn't just tell a joke, you just repeated yourself in a funny voice. I don't know why you did that. But, like, a lot of the little... things that they're doing are what still exist today. I

don't—I don't really just, like, sit there and scroll through YouTube videos, but my children would love to if I would let them all the time.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] And so from that, I have seen that, like, that is part of it, is just, like... we just say this weird thing over and over again, and, like, do visual effects or make a funny voice, and you think it's so funny, and then we move on to something else, and... I don't know. That still exists. Like, that's the language [laughs] of YouTube.

Taylor: Well, that's like, it's not—instead of a variety show where you go to the specific website to watch this one show, TikTok is the variety show. YouTube is the variety show. [laughs]

Raleigh: Exactly.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Yeah, that's what I was thinking. That it's, like, basically a bunch of TikToks. Like, these little short one-minute segments that are all different, but all wacky and weird, except in one curated live webcast. Which is the other thing. It was live every time they did it.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: And that's crazy to think about. They were doing it live, and people were watching it live. And from everything I can understand, there was not, like, a page you could go to to watch past *iCarly*'s.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: It was just a live—

Taylor: Oh, that's funny. [laughs]

Raleigh: It was just a live broadcast! They didn't have, like, a YouTube channel. It was like a TV show!

Taylor: They embraced the ephemerality of their art form. I like that.

Raleigh: [through laughter] Yeah!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydney: It was a happening.

[all laugh]

Raleigh: Yeah, it was a happening!

Taylor: [through laughter] An *iCarly* happening! The artist is present.

Sydney: Oh, that's fantastic. I didn't really—but you're right. Like, they don't—I mean, maybe the videos are archived? I don't know. On their site, maybe?

Raleigh: Maybe. Maybe. I don't know. But it is live.

Sydney: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydney: No, it's—it's—it's defini—[laughs] it's definitely live. Which is also wild. Like, I mean, on the show, her guardian is her older brother.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydney: Um, because her dad's away at sea, or something.

Raleigh: He's in the Air Force?

Sydney: Okay.

Raleigh: He's living on the base—on a base somewhere.

Sydney: He's somewhere.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: Somewhere else. And the mom is not addressed.

Rileigh: Ever, no.

Sydnee: So, uh, her older brother who is, like, wacky and an artist and not necessarily, like, gonna... make a bunch of rules—I think that's the—

Rileigh: He's not a strict parent.

Sydnee: Yes, that's the implication. Like, she has a very sort of laissez-faire upbringing.

Um, she is doing—she is an eighth grader doing a live webcast! And, like, I hear that and I get, like, palpitations. I'm like, "Oh no."

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "Oh, no-no-no-no-no-no! You can't. Honey, no! [laughs] This is a bad plan."

But there's nobody there to be like, "You probably shouldn't." [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: They just do it.

Rileigh: They said, "Can we use the top floor for a webcast?"

And he says, "Okay."

And that's the end of the conversation.

Sydnee: Live!

Rileigh: That's it.

Taylor: But I will say that it is—I think we have to look at the time period again though. Because, like, the idea, like, back in the day, like, "Oh, you're gonna—oh,

you have a thing on the web—on the internet? Oh, that's cute. That's nice. That's... that's a little thing you do."

Like, you know? I think it was still kind of—'cause there are plot points where they get away with things they say on their web show because it's kind of assumed that a lot of the adults don't watch it, you know? Like making fun of their teachers constantly. Like, that's fine, because their teachers aren't gonna watch this.

That safety net of the anonymity of the internet still exists back in 2007. [laughs]

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: That's a really good point. There's not the concept that, like, everyone you ever interact with for the rest of your life can know that you said this now.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um... like when you apply to college, when you apply for a job, when you—whatever you wanna do with your life, here it is.

Uh... well, I—I wanna talk more about the show itself and why it, um, has meant so much to you, Raleigh.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] As a—an up-and-coming internet star.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Yes.

Sydnee: But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Sydnee: Uh, so first of all... I wanna get us started. Hold on. I'm gonna get us started.

Raleigh: [through laughter] Okay.

Sydnee: Sorry.

Taylor: Get us started, Syd.

Rileigh: You can get us started. [laughs]

Taylor: Do it.

Sydnee: [laughs] Yeah. I can do this. Um... listen. Right now you might be somebody who's following the news and current events of the day, uh, and wanting to know what's happening in the world constantly, or maybe you just need a distraction from everything. Either way.

Rileigh: Sometimes both.

Sydnee: Sometimes both. Depends on the day. Um, but it's hard to unplug yourself. It's hard to stop, when the world is changing so much every minute. But you gotta give your eyes a break every once in a while. You gotta get away from those screens. Trust me, my dry eyes can attest to that.

Rileigh: Yeah. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Um, and instead, why don't you just listen to something? Why don't you close your eyes, pop in some Raycon wireless earbuds... and enjoy—you know, you enjoy those murder podcasts, probably. [laughs]

Rileigh: I love those.

Sydnee: [through laughter] You love those.

Uh, but whatever you like to listen to, Raycon wireless earbuds are the best way to do it. No dangling wires, no stems to get in your way, they come in all kinds of different colors so whatever you're looking for. They're really comfortable, they won't fall out of your ears. They don't tell me to say that. I'm just attesting to that. They don't fall out of your ears.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, most earbuds fall out of my ears!

Rileigh: What—

Sydnee: This is a problem for me.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: I didn't realize this was a problem for you.

Taylor: Me too, yeah!

Sydnee: It's a huge problem for me, yeah!

Rileigh: Huh.

Sydnee: See?

Rileigh: Well...

Taylor: Genetic.

Sydnee: And Raycon wireless earbuds do not fall out of my ears. They're really comfortable. It's a discreet look, if you're worried about that. They look cool. Um, they're built with water and sweat resistant construction, Bluetooth that pairs quickly and seamlessly, enough battery life for six hours, and they're accessible to everybody, because wireless ear—Raycon wireless earbuds start at half the price of other premium audio brands.

So, you gotta get these. They—I don't know if Raycon wants to use "Raycon: they won't fall out of your ears" as a tag, but they can, if they want that.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Raycon, you can have that. [laughs] Uh, Tey—[laughs] Taylor, if our listeners want to get Raycon wireless earbuds, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, Raycon's offering 15% off all their products for our listeners, and here's what you gotta do to get that. Uh, go to buyraycon.com/buffering. That's

it! You'll get 15% off your entire Raycon order, so feel free to grab a pair and a spare. That's 15% off at buyraycon.com/buffering. Once again, that's buyraycon.com/buffering for... weird ears as well as normal ones. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs] Um, speaking of other body parts...

Sydnee: Uh-huh? Yeah?

Rileigh: You know what I care about?

Sydnee: What?

Rileigh: My armpits.

Taylor: Sure.

Sydnee: Well, who doesn't?

Rileigh: Um, well, you should care about what you put in your armpits. Everyone should. And that's why I care about Native aluminum-free Deodorant. It has been a great addition to my 2021 routine. You know, my daily—you gotta get up, you gotta do your—you gotta do your chores for your body, basically. You know?

Sydnee: Right.

Rileigh: Get prepped for the day. Even if you're not goin' anywhere, which I'm usually not. You just gotta get ready for the day, and Native has become a part of that routine. Because they care about what you're putting in those pits, and that's why their deodorant's ingredients list includes things you've heard of, like coconut oil and shea butter.

And another plus is that none of their products are tested on animals, and almost everything is vegan, and—

Taylor: Ooh, I can eat it!

Rileigh: —they have options. I know! You could eat it!

Taylor: [laughs] No, I—

Sydnee: Don't.

Raleigh: Don't. But you could!

Taylor: That's not—that's not good to say. Sorry! [laughs]

Raleigh: Don't. [laughs] Anyways, it is vegan. Uh, they also have a line of sensitive deodorants for people with baking soda sensitivities, plastic-free deodorants if you're trying to cut down on your plastic consumption, and even an unscented option. So if that is something you prefer, they have that, although I will say their scents are delicious for your nose and your pits. Uh, I like the coconut and vanilla. That's been my go-to.

So, Tey, if our listeners wanna check out Native, what should they do?

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

Sydnee: The last thing I wanna tell y'all about real quick is Magic Spoon. I know a lot of us have been uh, not eating the best during the last year or so. Um, maybe eating a little more sugar than we'd like to, a little more of the sweets, and not balancing that good sugar out with enough of the other good stuff that your body needs. Um, you know, like your veggies and your protein and all that good stuff.

So, if you're somebody who specifically loves cereal—which, I mean, like, that's almost everybody, right?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Cereal is delicious. We love cereal. Um, but you're trying to cut back a little bit on the sugar that you're eating. Magic Spoon has you covered. They have zero grams of sugar, they got protein, they are keto-friendly, they're gluten-free, they're grain-free, soy-free, uh, they are just—it's cereal, but it's cereal that you can feel good about eating, and it's still tasty! So you don't have to sacrifice the yummy taste of a bowl of cereal to get something that's a little healthier, especially in the morning, when you're gettin' goin'.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Cereal is also great at any time. Snack, or dessert. Cereal's good any time of day.

Raleigh: All times of day.

Sydnee: Yeah. Uh, they're releasing two limited-edition flavors this month: cookies and cream and maple waffle, or you can build your own box. You got cocoa, fruity, frosted, peanut butter, cinnamon—my favorite's the peanut butter, personally.

Raleigh: Hm, I like the fruity.

Sydnee: Yeah, you like the fruity?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It's really good! And, uh, I come from a—a household where cereal is very important. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And Magic Spoon cereal is cereal that tastes great, and you can feel good about eating.

So, Tey, if our listeners want to get some Magic Spoon, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, they can go to magicspoon.com/buffering to grab the new, limited-edition cookies and cream, maple waffle, or a custom bundle of cereal to try it today. And Magic Spoon is so confident in their product, it's backed with a 100% happiness guarantee. So, if you don't like it for any reason, they'll refund your money, no questions asked.

And be sure to use our promo code, "buffering," at checkout to save 5 dollars off your order. That's magicspoon.com/buffering, and use the code "buffering" to save 5 dollars.

Sydnee: Uh, one thing I did wanna mention about *iCarly* that I really enjoyed is, in one of those early episodes, Sam is trying to get people to move out of her way. It's when they're at the TRL show, like, the show. And she says, "Move. We're from the internet."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [snorts] Yeah. [laughs loudly]

Taylor: Have you tried that, Syd?

Sydnee: I—well, I was wondering, does that work?

Raleigh: I don't know. I've never tried it.

Taylor: They're—

Raleigh: But I feel like I should, maybe.

Taylor: I—oh—there is no worse clout play that I can think of—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: —than "Excuse me? I made something on the internet." [laughs]

Raleigh: Like, everyone's "from the internet" now, right?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: But have you ever been in a situation, like—I don't know. Like, for example, like, I was having an issue with an airline a while ago. And, like, you know, I—I am not one to ever, like, throw any sort of social media weight around, 'cause I don't have much of it. But there was that passing thought in my head, like, "Maybe if I mean somebody—" I'm like, "What, what do I mean? Hi! [through laughter] I'm s—[laughs] I'm somebody on the internet... Delta! I need you to answer me." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: The only time I've ever used this is not to get anything. It was sort of explanatory. The only time I've ever said "I'm from the internet," uh, we were—it was when Justin and I attended a show with Lin. And we were sitting there with Lin, and people of course started recognizing Lin.

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: And were all like, "Oh my God. It's Lin-Manuel Miranda. Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh."

And so they were all sort of, like, trying to edge their way over to, like—before the show started to, like, say hi to him, or talk to him, or get his autograph or whatever.

Um, and the woman sitting behind us leaned forward and tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Uh, is that really Lin-Manuel Miranda?"

And I was like, "Yes."

And she said, "Well, um... who are... who are you?"

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "Are you... are you somebody?" [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: "I'm from the internet!"

Sydnee: [laughs] That's what I said. I said, "Not really. I mean, I'm from the internet." [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I didn't know what else to—like, first of all, I wanted to say, like, "Well, lady, everybody's somebody. Come on, give me a break, here! What do you mean, am I somebody? I don't know! My mom thinks so." [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like... are you... somebody? Like, "I don't—I'm from the internet."

And she just looked at me like, "Oh, okay... "

Taylor: "Uh... "

Sydnee: What do you want me to say?! Like, "Yes, I'm a famous person. I can't believe you didn't know!"

No, I'm nobody. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. I have used—there's one point Carly introduces herself, or, like, calls herself a professional internet comedian.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And, like, when people ask, like, "Oh, you have a podcast? What does that—and it's your job? What—no. That—what does that mean?"

I have used something similar. Like, "Basically I just professionally create internet content that has real no impact." [laughs]

Taylor: Have either of you ever, um, when trying to—'cause I have been in a similar situation trying to explain my employment, uh, to, like—you know, like—for, like, a rental application. Have you ever resulted to, "Uh, radi—I work in radio. I work on the—"

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: "—I make a radio show." [laughs]

Raleigh: Internet radio show is my go-to.

Sydnee: Internet radio show, yes. That is—internet radio show.

Taylor: Yeah. Or maybe just, like, leave off the word internet. 'Cause, like, "Oh, people know what the radio is. I'll just say I work in, uh... on a radio show. That's fine. That's close. That's a thing you can understand. [laughs] As a real job. [laughs]"

Sydnee: I have done that. Yeah, I use—that's why I usually just default to, "I'm a doctor." And then I just leave it at that.

Taylor: Right? I'm like, "I'm a bartender. That means more in the world."

[all laugh]

Taylor: Well...

Raleigh: Um...

Sydnee: You look like you had a thought, Raleigh. You had a thought face on.

Raleigh: Well, I was thinking, there are lots of, um, other characters in this show besides the titular *iCarly*.

Sydnee: Right.

Raleigh: Which, by the way, I thought was funny. I saw someone tweet and say, "If I was Sam and Carly wanted me to be on her web show that she was going to call *iCarly*, I would've walked away right then and there." [laughs] Which is fair.

Sydnee: I—they do—I feel like they tried to cover it with Sam's whole, like, "I don't wanna do a web show. I don't wanna prep."

Raleigh: "I don't wanna do the work."

Sydnee: "Tell you what. You can make it your show, and I'll just be your wacky sidekick."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well—

Sydnee: Which also—

Taylor: —well, so, the name did come from Freddy, so...

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: It was not Carly.

Sydnee: Who is established—I do feel like they—by the way, I want you to talk about the other characters. I feel like they played that—I don't know how the series continues. But they did play that off better than I expected. With, like, he's the next door neighbor who's, like, in love with her. And, like, longing for her.

Like, that can get—I really hate that trope a lot, where it's like, "If I just nice guy her to death, eventually she'll love me back."

I hate that trope. But I feel like that her just being definitively, like, "You gotta cut out this crush stuff. We're friends. Just, like, leave it be."

I—I don't know. It's still not my favorite thing to see modeled, especially since at the drop of a hat she can, like, smile at him and get him to do her bidding.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Um, but it's not as bad as it could be? [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. I think they handle it in a way that makes it so it still can be, like... not necessarily enjoyable, but, like, a fine plot point. Because they make it clear that Freddy knows, like, "She doesn't like me back."

So she, like—I don't know, receives his flirting or his declarations of love or whatever and just kind of laughs it off, like, "Okay."

But then he never assumes, like, he is owed anything, or she, like, needs to feel the same way. He always—like, when she shuts him down he's always like, "Okay. That's fair." [laughs]

Sydnee: That—I do feel like that they handle that—that's the bit that you're always worried they're gonna drift into, which is like, him saying, "I've been here all along, waiting for you, and I can't—" you know, and...

Raleigh: Um, they do—eventually it kind of fades away. There's less Freddy love for Carly and more so just friendship, because then Freddy and Sam date for...

eh, three episodes worth of show, maybe four. Um, and then the very, very last episode of the series, Carly and Freddy kiss. And we don't really know if they stay together or not, um, but that is how the series ends.

Um, but I did want to talk about the other characters, because you have Carly and Sam and Freddy and Spencer, which are kind of like your four that are, you know, your main four.

Um, but Gibby and T-Bo are two of my favorite characters. I don't know if either of you watched any episodes with either of them in them.

Sydnee: No. I think Teylor, you got to some that I did not.

Teylor: I got—I got—yeah. There's a—they both are in season two.

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, Gibby is their—their friend, their wacky friend who ends up joining as, like, a regular on their web show, basically. Like, a regular character. Um, and T-Bo works at the smoothie shop that they frequent, but his thing is he often is trying to sell something else in addition to the smoothies that he puts on a stick. For example, like, bagels, or donuts. Um, at one point he manages to get tacos on there. Like, that's his thing, just kind of walking around selling things on sticks, but also then he becomes more of a regular by the end. Um, but I think it's a—overall, it does a really good job of bringing in these other characters that seem like they have their whole other thing going on in addition to being, like, a quote, unquote, "background character." Because it makes it so much more interesting than just every episode, "What's gonna happen with Carly, Sam, and Freddy with their web show? Oh no, they're gonna fight! Oh, they're fine."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Or, like, "Oh, their web show's in danger! Oh, it's fine."

Or Neville, who's the bad guy who threatens to, like, write them mean reviews on the internet basically. [laughs quietly]

Teylor: Horrible.

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Raleigh: Comes back—he comes back a few times.

Sydnee: Neville, the first troll.

Taylor: I know. [crosstalk]

Raleigh: [laughs] Literally!

Taylor: Nickelodeon incel. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. He's this kid who has this really powerful, like, internet content critique website, and they think he's, like, an adult, and they meet him and he's actually, like, a 12, 13-year-old boy. Um, and he just—you know, he wants to date—he wants to kiss Carly, and Carly says no. So he says, "I'm going to give your podca—" or—your podcast. "[holding back laughter] I'm gonna give your internet show bad reviews."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Feels too close, doesn't it?

Taylor: Yeah, right?

Raleigh: It feels too close!

Sydnee: Close to the bone? I know!

Taylor: Yep, yep.

Sydnee: Gosh. Oh, yuck!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yuck!

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I hate that!

Raleigh: That is a plot point that is used multiple times throughout the show that I really didn't remember until I rewatched it, that there are at least two or three guys that try to kiss Carly that she has to, like, run away from... so they won't kiss her.

Sydnee: Ugh!

Raleigh: And, like, get Spencer to, like, kick them out.

Sydnee: Well, this was—this was before we, um, I think had any—we still don't have enough, but any conversations about consent.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like... this is—this is before that became, like—still not commonplace enough, but commonplace at all. I—that's a shame, too. I didn't see that. Um, I'm not surprised. 'Cause, I mean, I'm familiar with that—that period of time. [laughs quietly] I remember 2007 to 2012.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I remember that that time existed. I was alive in it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, I wasn't a teenager, but I was alive. Uh, but it's a shame, because I actually felt, in the episodes I watched, there's a little bit of energy coming from Sam and Carly that I don't usually associate with teen girls on TV. Uh, there's a little bit of, like—like for instance when Carly's like, "I don't know if I'd wanna be famous," in that very first episode, and then the two cute guys come up and are like, "Don't you have that cool web series?"

And then she's like, "Maybe I do wanna be famous."

And it's like, that is a beat that you normally don't see for a girl. Like, that's a very boy—like, "I got some babes." Like, that's a very [laughs] boy beat. Um, and I thought, "Well, maybe this is... " It's not feminism.

Raleigh: It's not.

Sydnee: But it's proto-femini—it's, like, the first, like, steps towards "Maybe girls could be something other than what we've depicted" has—I don't know. Like, I felt, like, a little bit—like, there's—that's straining to break out. But it's not there, certainly.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. I—

Sydnee: Um, I don't know.

Taylor: —I do—I agree with that. I mean, I feel like at points I was like, "They're kind of written like boys." And I know it's, you know, like a—a man in charge—the producer on the show. But, like—but then again, like, also, like... you know. That, like... those cliches of what young teenage girls are like not being present is refreshing, because girls—hey, girls can be gross, and—and rude, and weird, and—and, you know. I don't know. Like, that's—that's all normal stuff, and it is nice to see that, you know—that portrayed.

Sydnee: It—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: —it's very much crossing into that thing where, like, um, it's that classic—the girl who says, "I'm only ever friends with boys," and it's because we have taught girls that boys are cool, girls are not, so in order to be cool you have to act like boys and be around boys—

Raleigh: And don't be like other girls.

Sydnee: —and don't be like girls, yeah. It's like the extreme of that, because they're also—I am also not thrilled with how sometimes they're bullies.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it's that—it's a very, like sort of, um... toxic masculinity kind of energy that gets—that sometimes is in there. I mean, not to that extent. But you know what I mean? Like—

Raleigh: Right, I know what you mean.

Sydnee: —there's moments of it where it's like, "Why are you shoving that kid into a locker? Like, what—what is this? Like, can't you just be, like, cool, and a little gross, and not squealy girl, and also not shove people?" You know? I mean, I feel like that they're just trying to make them more like boys to make them cool, which is not the answer either.

Taylor: Right.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: But it is different. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I do—I do appreciate that neither of them, except for the few episodes where Sam and Freddy are dating, neither of them are in, like, relationships for any longer than, like, an episode.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: That's like, "Oh, this is the plot of the episode, that something goes on with this boy that one of them is dating."

But that's it. And I do like that, because there's never a point where it's like, either of their characters are dependent on another person, on a boy. Um, except there is one ep—they did lots of hour-long, like—not movie episodes, but, like, TV specials, I guess?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: And one was when Carly dates a bad boy.

Sydnee: Oh!

Rileigh: Yes. And Spencer is very upset about this, because he tries to steal Spencer's motorcycle.

Sydnee: [gasps]

Taylor: Oh no!

Rileigh: But the reason—I know. The reason they break up, which is—looking back I'm like, "Why would you break up with someone over this is? This is—Carly, that was not a good move."

Is because his secret is that he collects Pee Wee Babies, which are the *iCarly* equivalent of Beanie Babies.

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: Hm.

Rileigh: So he has a large Pee Wee Baby collection. And Carly, like, tries to buy him, like, a power drill or something. Like, "Can't you go fix something? Like, let's get more power tools! Can't you be... manly, and—"

Sydnee: Whoa!

Rileigh: "—be a bad boy again?"

Sydnee: Ahh!

Rileigh: And he just wants to show her his Pee Wee Baby collection! And he, like, keeps them all in mint condition, and he has, like—knows their names and everything. And it's like, why do we—come on, Carly! [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah...

Taylor: Yeah. That's interesting, because having—I think—this should come as no surprise. I really like the character Spencer. But, like, having that as a main character, like, there's that—there's a—there's an episode where there's, like, a... they're watching a bunch of dance auditions, and they all have these dreams involving dance.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And, like, it ends with Spencer waking up in, like, a—waking up in a dream, and he's, like, wearing a dress, and there are all these, like, young men that are to dance—he's like, "Wait a second! What's going on?" He's like, "I think I like it!" And just does this whole dance routine in a dress with a bunch of dudes. [through laughter] And, like, okay! That's nice!

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: Like, I think he's—he's a good character.

Sydney: Yeah, he is, he is.

Raleigh: Spencer is a good character.

Sydney: That's a true. That's a shame to hear that they—especially, like, I would think the bigger problem would be that the guy tried to steal a motorcycle.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: That would—that would put me off a little bit. [laughs]

Raleigh: Again, Spencer is the good guy in this episode. Is, like, a good adult role model, because he tries to steal Spencer's motorcycle, and the security guard or whatever catches him and brings him up to Spencer's apartment and says, "This is who tried to steal your motorcycle. Do you wanna press charges?"

And Spencer's like, "[sighs] No. You know, he's just a kid. Like, I was kind of a dumb kid that tried to do dumb things growing up. I don't want him to get in trouble for this, 'cause it's fine. He didn't damage anything."

So instead he tells this kid, like, "Hey, come up here, and you have to help me work on this sculpture for several days. Like, do work on it and stuff, instead of me pressing charges."

And he's, like, trying to, like, be a—a mentor to this—this quote, unquote, "bad boy." [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Which is good, since I will say, that was one thing I noticed pretty quickly. Unlike, like, *Boy Meets World*, which is a generation back from shows like this, where the teachers are—they might be strict, but it's because they love you.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: And they're going to help you, and inspire you, and shape your future. And, like, you're going to remember fondly all the times they were tough on you because you know it shaped you into a better human.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, that's very much underlying, like, a show like *Boy Meets World*. That is not what—

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: —unless something changes dramatically towards the end of the show—

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: —the teachers seem like real jerks on this show! [laughs]

Raleigh: Except for the—yeah. Except for the one cool principal. That is it.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: They're all jerks.

Sydnee: That's intere—I wonder what that says about culture... at that moment. You know? Like, because it was just a given on *Boy Meets World* that, like, the

teachers might give you detention, but it's because you really did screw up, and you really did need to take a minute and learn a lesson, and that kind of thing.

Whereas in this show it was like, "I'm gonna—" I don't know. I mean, they did make fun of that one woman, that one teacher.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But still. It was, like, intentionally cruel. "I'm not gonna consider you or listen to you because I hate kids." Which is—

Rileigh: Yeah. That's how kind of all of them are. [laughs quietly] Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, which is a very sad, unfortunate trope. But was that just, like, what culture thought in the early 2000's? Is that just—I don't know.

Rileigh: I guess.

Sydnee: I was out of high school by then, so I don't know.

Taylor: Well... it's a young kid's fantasy. Like, you know, teachers are stupid, and... live in your three-story loft with your mid-20's cool art brother instead. Like, no adults here. [laughs quietly] Very—very Charlie Brown.

Sydnee: And your fashion is incredible. That was the one thing Charlie instantly was like, "I love the way they dress!" [laughs]

Rileigh: And that was how I—that was everything. I wanted to dress just like that. Oh my gosh.

Taylor: Well, I was gonna say, like, one odd—and this felt like a—like, I don't know who this Easter egg was for, 'cause it was for me, but the only reason I ever watched this show was because of this—this episode. Uh, it's in the first episode, and, uh, Spencer is wearing a shirt with a spray-painted S on it and a very thin tie. [holding back laughter] That is a direct reference—this is so bizarre—to a Dead Kennedys performance. Like, they played this, like, Bay Area music festival when they first hit it big. They had, like, one big hit out. And they were still very much, like, underground and alternative. So in sort of an active protest, they went on stage, they were instructed to play their hit. Instead, they did not. They played, like, a riff on "My Sharona." And they walked out with S's

on their shirt, and then they turned around their ties so they looked like dollar signs, and then played. Like, "Ha ha, we're a bunch of sellouts."

Cool bit of punk rock history. But the fact that Spencer was sporting that look, I'm like, "What—who—who is this for?!" [laughs]

Rileigh: It's for you!

Taylor: Me!

Sydnee: That's wild.

Taylor: A decade later! Like, "Oh yeah, punk rock. Okay!" [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs] I was, um—

Sydnee: That's interesting.

Rileigh: —rewatching—and I think maybe this is why I—'cause I was thinking, like, "Why'd I like this show so much?" I liked all of those shows in that era, but this was the one that, like, I remember watching most, and liking most.

Um, I was trying to remember, like, why did I feel so drawn to this show? And I was rewatching with my roommates, and one of them said, "Man, I wish I had gotten to grow up with, like, a cool older brother that was that much older than me."

And they looked at me and they're like, "Well, I mean... "

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: "You basically did. Like, not a brother. But, like, older siblings that were that much older than you."

And I was like, "You know what? You're right." Like, Carly had this relationship with her brother that wasn't really like a sibling relationship, because he is, what, 27 when the show starts, and she's 13? So, like, 14 years. And it's kind of like a weird parent-sibling relationship, and she gets to do cool things with him and because of him, because he is an actual adult. Like, that's the relationship I always had with you all.

Sydnee: Aww!

Raleigh: And by extension, Justin. But, I mean... that's, like—that was me, and I saw, like, "Wow! Carly has a—a weird older brother. [holding back laughter] I've got two weird older siblings."

Taylor: [laughs loudly] That's... valid.

Sydnee: [laughs] And I don't really wanna do YouTube, but podcasting's cool.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: And then as I got a podcast, there was part of me when I was 15 and we started the show I was like, "[whispering] I'm *iCarly*. This [crosstalk]—"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I was gonna say, this show was very much for you, Raleigh. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Yeah, this was quite formative.

Raleigh: We did a presentation my freshman year of college, my scholarship class, where we each picked a fictional character for everyone else, um, that represented them, to introduce ourselves. And my class picked *iCarly* for me.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: And in the moment I was like, "Is that... " and then I rewatched and I was like, "Well, okay. That's—that's fair."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I'm *iCarly* for the podcast era. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I can't think of a better note to end this episode on. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes. I'm renaming the show to *iRaleigh* by the way.

Taylor: *iRaleigh*, yes, alright. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh, I will say that I am glad that you had us watch this. I enjoyed it. I did. I think it's funny, I think it's cute. Um, I think it does, like, do better than a lot of shows of that era. Not... everything.

Raleigh: Not great. But...

Sydnee: But better. Um, but Charlie and Cooper loved it.

Raleigh: Oh, good.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I thought they might.

Sydnee: They—they both immediately—Charlie was like, "I gotta make a video of me squirting milk out of my eye. How do I do that?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Oh no! [laughs]

Sydnee: I was like, "Oh no. We—I don't want you [crosstalk]—"

Raleigh: "You can't do this." [laughs]

Sydnee: "I'm not gonna do that."

And then Cooper sat there trying to pick her nose with her toe.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I have a video now—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —of Cooper trying to pick her nose with her toe, so... thanks for that.

Raleigh: Welcome.

Sydnee: But they loved it, and demanded we watch more, so.

Raleigh: Oh, good. Yeah.

Sydnee: So there we go.

Raleigh: I was surprised it still holds up, in terms of, like, things that made me laugh. There were still a few moments where I laughed genuinely, and I was like, "Wow, okay."

Sydnee: I had some moments where I genuinely thought things were funny, yeah.

Taylor: I enjoyed it. I also—the—the—the design on it—like you said the fashion, the *set*? Oh my God. [through laughter] Like, it's—it's just nice to look at.

Raleigh: Yes. It's very nice. And also I just wanted that apartment and that studio upstairs. And eventually she gets a new bedroom, and it's... man.

Taylor: I went down, like, a rabbit hole of, like, different prop aspects that are in that apartment.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter]

Taylor: Like, different things that someone got. There's, like, a gummy bear lamp. There's all sorts of stuff. I'm like, "I just—this is—I want this stuff in my house." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Um...

Sydnee: Alright.

Rileigh: Well, thank you all for watching this with me. What's next?

Sydnee: Well, thank you. I wanted to—I feel like this is on the theme. This was a show about YouTubers before YouTubers were such a common thing. Um, I wanna do a show about... sort of podcasters...

Rileigh: Okay?

Sydnee: Before there were podcasters. I want us to talk about *Radio Free Roscoe*.

Taylor: Oh, boy.

Rileigh: Alright!

Sydnee: It's actually a radio show. It's not really a podcast. But, you know, it was the pre-podcast.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: So.

Rileigh: I had never heard of this until today, so.

Sydnee: [sighs] It was a—it is a Canadian show. Whenever you see it, you'll see, like, things about *Degrassi* right alongside it, I feel like. I feel like that's the right sort of time and feel for it. Um, but *Radio Free Roscoe*, I know Taylor and I just fell in love with, so...

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh...

Raleigh: Alright.

Sydnee: I think it's on YouTube?

Raleigh: Gotcha.

Sydnee: So, enjoy.

Raleigh: Thank you. I'm very excited.

Sydnee: [laughs] We'll discuss next week. Um, thank you both. Thank you, listeners. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. Uh, and you should go to Maximumfun.org, where there are many podcasts, you would love them, and you can listen to them.

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

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

[theme music plays in the background]

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

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

Sydnee: I think I kind of mispronounced my own name there. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: That's alright. It's been a hard year for everybody. It's March again.

Taylor: More-ch!

Raleigh: It's still More-ch. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: More-ch morchs on.

Sydnee: Oh, More-ch.

Rileigh: Oh, it's all More-ch.

[theme music plays and ends]

[music plays]

Janet: Hey. I'm Janet Varney, host of *The JV Club* podcast.

[bell ringing]

Ah, high school. Was it a time of adventure, romance, and discovery?

Speaker Two: Class of '95! We did it!

[rain sounds play in the background]

Janet: Or... a time of angst, disappointment, and confusion?

Speaker Two: We're all tied together by four years of trauma at this place, but enjoy adulthood, I guess!

[booing]

Janet: The truth is, it was both! So, join me on *The JV Club* podcast where I invite some great friends like Kristen Bell, Angela Kinsey, Oscar Nunez, Neil Patrick Harris, and Keegan Michael Key, to talk about high school. The good, the bad, and everything in between.

Speaker Two: My teenage mood swings [voice suddenly deepens] are gettin' harder to manage!

Janet: *The JV Club*. Find it on Maximum Fun.

[chord]

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