

Still Buffering 252: Radio Free Roscoe (2003-2005)

Published March 20th, 2021

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Well, happy St. Patrick's Day, everyone. [sighs quietly]

Taylor: Oh, that's what that is.

Raleigh: I also forgot that was today.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: How could you forget?

Taylor: Oh...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Well, I don't know about y'all, I'm not doing anything to celebrate St. Patrick's Day today.

Raleigh: Yeah. Also, it's More-ch, Sydnee. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: It's all—it's always been St. Patrick's Day. Uh, even in the best of years, up here in New York City, St. Patrick's Day is a pretty, uh, terrible day to try to go out and be social, because there's a lot of, uh...

Sydnee: Well, yeah.

Taylor: ... roving drunks that are not fun.

Sydnee: I, uh—well, I'm not going to go out and be social. We're not gonna do that. But, um, I have—I did laundry yesterday so that my St. Patrick's Day socks would be clean to wear today.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: I'm wearing them. My green socks.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And, uh, the girls get—see, this is the difference. When you have young children [laughs quietly] every holiday, especially this past year, anything to break up the monotony of the year. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Sure, yeah.

Sydnee: Anything to bring something new. So, they are decked out.

Raleigh: They are.

Sydnee: Uh, and then Charlie invented...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ... a mythology.

Taylor: Okay?

Sydnee: Um, yeah.

Raleigh: She's been alive for, like, six and a half years now, too, so, like, she knows that this is not a thing you all have ever done before. [laughs]

Sydnee: We have never done any, like—there is no—[laughs] there is no, um, figure, mythical figure, associated with, like, St. Patrick's Day, in the sense that, like, nobody brings you something, right? It's not like Santa.

Rileigh: Yeah, there's no Easter Bunny or Santa.

Sydnee: Yeah, it's not the Easter Bunny. There's not even a Great Pumpkin. [laughs] Um, but Charlie decided somehow that every year on St. Patrick's Day we try to catch a leprechaun.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: And I said, "I don't know what you're ta—[laughs] what?"

Rileigh: "What?" [laughs]

Sydnee: And she said, "Well, I've gotta build the leprechaun trap."

We have ne—this is not from anywhere. We have never talked about this. I have no idea where this came from. And so she spent a lot of time making this leprechaun trap, and set it out, and put, uh, [holding back laughter] Lucky Charms out as bait. Um, and then inside the box where she wanted to catch the leprechaun there were, like, some necklaces that were sparkly, and she thought he'll think it's treasure.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: So, now I have my—and then she said, "And then of course we have to put out the milk that he'll turn green."

"What?"

Taylor: Okay, yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah, she explained that to me and said, "I had to leave out milk to see if he'd use his powers to turn it green. So then I also left out Lucky Charms that will turn your milk green." [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh, but all of this—I don't know where it came from. And I don't know—I mean, I was required to fulfill, I guess, some sort of parental obligation to make something magical happen.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, and I, like—I have ne—so we had to, on the fly, come up with... something. To—I mean, 'cause that's what—when they went to bed I was sitting there, looking at this leprechaun trap going, "Well... what do I do now?"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] You gotta—you gotta get 'em a leprechaun.

[pause]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, that's what—so they were—that's what—I asked Charlie before she went to sleep. I said, "What are—are you gonna be disappointed if you didn't catch a leprechaun in the morning?"

And she said yes. [laughs quietly]

And I said, "Oh, great. Uh... "

Rileigh: Well, she put all that time into making a trap. What did you think the answer was gonna be?

Sydnee: [laughs] And so she went to sleep, and so we came up with—well, first of all, turning the milk green? That's easy.

Rileigh: Sure.

Sydnee: That one's easy. Uh, I made it look like the trap went off. Justin got really creative by—Charlie had a trap, and then her backup trap was she put some, like, Sil—like, putty kind of stuff? I don't know. It's some sort of weird substance that they sell to children these days. These putty stuff down that's sticky, and she made a sign next to it that said "Stand Here."

Rileigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs] Well...

Sydnee: She said, "This is my ba—"

Rileigh: What an elaborate scheme. [laughs]

Sydnee: She said, "This is my backup trap. It's a good old-fashioned Stand Here."

Rileigh: [wheezy laughter]

Taylor: [laughs] No, I've been—I've been caught again by the good old-fashioned Stand Here!

Rileigh: I've been Stand Here'd! [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: So, uh—so I made little footprints. It was Justin's idea, I just came up with the way to make them. But, uh, we made little footprints in the putty so it looked like he had, in fact, stood here.

Rileigh: Stood here.

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh, and then the last thing was, well, and then we wrote a note about how—like, we named him Lucky and said, like, "Oh, what a great trap! You almost got me!"

Um, and then we came up with—okay. The girls had been asking for these mermaid dolls that they really wanted, and we had bought them—sometimes we buy a toy that they really want and then just hide for an upcoming... like, if there's a holiday, if there's something we wanna celebrate—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —we were thinking maybe end of school for Charlie and that kind of—you know? Like, we'll just stick 'em away in a closet and then we have something for the future for when there is a reason to give them a prize. So we had these.

So the leprechaun said, "You almost got me, and as a reward, here's a mermaid."
[laughs]

Taylor: Very benevolent leprechaun. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: "[through laughter] You almost captured me, let me write you a friendly note and leave you a prize!"

Sydnee: [laughs] [loudly] But now this is every year! That's the problem!

Taylor: Yeah!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is, like, we have established that this happens.

Raleigh: That's exactly what I was going to say is my favorite part of this, is now Charlie has—maybe it was intentional. Maybe she conned you all. Because, I mean, she's been around long enough to be like, "Nothing happens on St. Patrick's Day, but now I'm gonna make it so something does so I get something out of it."

Taylor: I—yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: I would not be surprised—

Raleigh: I wouldn't be either! [laughs]

Sydnee: —if this was all, like, a—like, "Aw, man. I'm just gonna make Mom and Dad give me something for St—I'm gonna come up with a—I know there aren't leprechauns. I'm gonna come up with this whole thing, and I'm gonna make my parents buy me a present."

Raleigh: And of course then when you told our mom about it, she was like, "Well, [scoffs] I gotta do something. What am I gonna do?"

Sydnee: [exasperated sigh]

Rileigh: 'Cause I guess Charlie told Mom, "I already know you have something great planned, Mimi." [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Ha!

Rileigh: To which mom said, "Uhh... sure! Yeah!" [laughs]

Taylor: Wow! She is smarter than all of you all! [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah!

Sydney: And you know what I felt really bad about is I was listening to her on her, um, virtual kindergarten [snorts] crew call this morning. And it occurred to me, like, "Oh, she's telling all these kids about this."

Like, all these other kids are going to then look at their parents and say, "Why didn't—why didn't the leprechaun give me anything?"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Man.

Sydney: "What did I—what did I do wrong?" [laughs quietly] Like, this is coming. I know this is—and I thought—

Rileigh: "Why doesn't the leprechaun love me?"

Sydney: I need to send out an email to all the parents in her class and be like, "I am so sorry that I—like, I screwed you all over, and I am really sorry, but it's really Charlie's fault. [laughs] And it was unintentional. [laughs] And I am just so sorry!"

Rileigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, 20 years from now, when this is, like, a thing that all parents have to do across America, they're gonna look back in the Wikipedia and, "Oh, it all started in the McElroy household."

Rileigh: [unintelligible]

Sydnee: Instead of Elf on the Shelf it'll be the Lepre... Con... by Charlie McElroy.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh, like C-O-N?

Sydnee: Like so—like, yeah. Like C-O-N, con. The Lepre-Con.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh, man.

Raleigh: She's really good at that kind of stuff. Like, she'll even just walk around a store if you're with her and look at stuff and be like, "Man... I wish I had something like that. That's so cool."

And then just look at you. Like, "I'm six. Are you gonna look at me and tell me no?!" [laughs]

Sydnee: Cooper hasn't learned that yet. She's a lot more direct. We'll be sitting there and a commercial come on and she'll go, "I want that!"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: That's all she knows.

Sydnee: It's usually a baby though.

Taylor: Like an ac—

Raleigh: Like a real baby.

Taylor: —an actual baby?

Sydnee: Yeah, like an actual baby.

Taylor: Oh. Well, she can't have that.

Sydnee: She asks me all the time if she can have a baby, and I'm like, "N—no?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] "It doesn't work that way."

Raleigh: "Sorry, no." [laughs]

Sydnee: "We don't—we don't buy a baby. The—the—the toy the baby's playing with... "

Raleigh: "You can have that."

Sydnee: "[holding back laughter] You can have that. But not... the baby."

Raleigh: Don't let her find out you have the ability to provide her with a baby.

Sydnee: Oh, we've made it very clear.

Raleigh: 'Cause then she'd be so mad.

Sydnee: [through laughter] We've made it very clear. Mommy and Dsaddy can't do that anymore. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Okay.

Sydnee: Daddy saw to that.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Those days are over. Two is enough.

Uh, so... how—um, you know, the great thing... [laughs] here I go. The great thing about having our podcast is that we get to say what we want. There's just so many people out there telling you what to say and how to think, and it's just nice to know that, like, here... we can say exactly what we want, and be our voice, and your voice, Cougars.

Rileigh: Sydnee, I have to know. The first time you sat down to do a podcast, was there a part of you that was like, "[gasps] *Radio Free Roscoe*. That's what I'm doing right now. I'm doing *Radio Free Roscoe*!" [laughs]

Sydnee: I—so—

Taylor: "I'm Sydnee, and I'm wondering... "

[all laugh]

Sydnee: I have to say, as I was watching it, it occurred to me—rewatching it—that this is—this show was deep in my subconscious.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, it had sunk deep into who I am, and I don't think I knew that. Like, I don't—it was never on a conscious level that I was thinking, "Hey, podcasts are basically *Radio Free Roscoe*, and now I get to do one."

But, like, on some level it's gotta be in there.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: 'Cause it's—it's got big podcast energy.

Rileigh: Yes.

Taylor: Yes.

Rileigh: BPE.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Like, straight out the gate they're like, they sit down—so, we're gonna talk about *Radio Free Roscoe*, which was a—a—[laughs]

Taylor: Right, let's back up. [laughs]

Sydnee: I should've clarified that.

Rileigh: Thanks for clearing that up, yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, which was—if you haven't seen it, it's a great show. [laughs quietly] It's only on YouTube is the only place I could find it. I actually—I think I have it on DVD. Probably, like, some DVDs that we bought at a con or something at some point [laughs] that somebody burned from watching it on TV.

Um, but it's only—that was the only place I could find it. It was a Canadian show for teens, like, sort of a la *Degrassi*. I think it was in that... genre, that wheelhouse. Um, and it is from 2003... yes, to 2005. Only two years. Four seasons in those two years.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, and I loved it. And it was about three teens who started a radio show. Four teens. I keep saying three!

Rileigh: There are four.

Sydnee: There are four. I keep picturing the three of them at the table, and then Travis, AKA Smog, is in the sound booth.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: But, uh, anyway, from the beginning of this show, when they get this idea and they sit down to do their first episode of *Radio Free Roscoe*, their radio show, they're like, "Hey. We're not really sure what this is yet. But we're gonna invite you along on this journey—"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "—as we sort of figure it out together." And the whole thing is like, "[excitedly] Oh, it's your first podcast episode!"

Rileigh: Yeah.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Right?!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I even like the—in the first episode—er, it's I guess between the first and the second. The—the point of, like, oh, they didn't really know what to do in their first episode, and then in their second one they try to get too gimmicky and too into their personalities and, like, too radio jock. Like, "No, that doesn't work either! We have to find a way of being real!" [laughs]

Like, "Oh no!" [laughs]

Sydney: It's all so podcast!

Raleigh: It's very podcast.

Sydney: I mean, like, all of it! And, like, all—thinkin' they're so cool when they're—like Lily at the end of the first episode is like, "So, peace out!" [holding back laughter] And it's like, "[through laughter] Did you just say 'Peace out?!'"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydney: It's—it is so good, though! And then, uh—but I just thought about it. I was like, "This is—this is a podcast. This is what—" And this is also, in the beginning, it is very much like your first—if you have ever tried to make a podcast [laughs] then you share this. Your first episode, you sound like that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydney: And when you listen back to it, you—you cringe and go, "Did I sound like that?" [laughs] "Was I really thinking, like, 'Hey. Uh... this is novel.'"

Taylor: Wait, is that—is that supposed to end after the first episode? [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: 'Cause I still, like—like, [unintelligible] last week. I'm like, "Oh man, I got—can't go back there. [through laughter] That's—that was bad stuff." [laughs]

Raleigh: "What was I thinking all the way back then?" [laughs]

Taylor: "What was I thinking yesterday?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I think you realize—which they realize on the show—that eventually you have to have some sort of structure. You have to have a topic, a theme, beats to hit, something. Literally anything.

Raleigh: Man, it really is like a podcast.

Sydnee: Yeah!

Raleigh: Just like a bunch of, like, I don't know, usually dudes sitting down together. Like, "Let's just—we're so funny. We have such good conversations."

Sydnee: [bursts into laughter]

Raleigh: "[through laughter] Let's just make a podcast! Let's record this. People would love to listen to this."

Sydnee: [laughs] Oh, that's so true!

Raleigh: Right?

Sydnee: I mean, that is!

Raleigh: I know so many people—like, not anyone in our family. I'm not saying that. I'm saying, like, other people I have met, like, through school that are like, "We should have a podcast. Like, let's just record these conversations we're having right now."

Sydnee: But we've all said that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, that's a thing. Like, there's no shade here, because—

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: —we've all been there.

Rileigh: I mean, that's why—that's how we have a podcast. [laughs]

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: Yes. Um, but I'd like to think that much like the characters on *Radio Free Roscoe*, we—we learned. [laughs quietly] We grew. We adapted. Um, and made something that by the end of the series, like, the entire student body loves and is demanding more of.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Which is a big differentiator. So, while a podcast can be listened to by people other than those that you go to high school with, um—

Rileigh: Hopefully only other than those that you go high school with.

Taylor: Yeah.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: *Radio Free Roscoe*—so they set up this radio station that only broadcasts, like, two square miles, right?

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: So it's just aimed at their high school. Or, like, occasionally you'll see people parked in a car [laughs quietly] outside their high school with the door open. You know how sometimes you park somewhere and you crank up the radio show you're listening to and you open your door so that other people in the neighborhood can hear the radio show you're listening to?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That happens a lot. [laughs]

Taylor: I would love to just walk by a car on the street and it's, like, just—*This American Life* just, like... thumping.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Just Ira Glass, just loud. [laughs]

Raleigh: Man, who is bumping *Serial* right now?

[all laugh]

Sydney: But that's exactly—like, that shot is in there so many times, because the only other place that you listen to it is in school, um, because they're competing with the school's radio station, Cougar Radio. Which, uh, the principal is—no man has ever been as invested in anything as Principal Wallen—Waller—Waller?

Raleigh: Waller?

Taylor: Waller.

Sydney: Waller is in the Cougar Radio station.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydney: Like, he loves it.

Taylor: I—I did think—you know, I remember, like—'cause there's, like, the villain character that runs—I mean, the principal is sort of an antagonist, and then there's also Kim, the stu—

Sydney: Kim Carlisle.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydney: Come Smile a While.

Taylor: [laughs quietly] So she's the one that runs the student radio station, and she's the voice of Cougar Radio. And they have this antagonistic relationship, but I kind of feel bad for her? Because, like, she's the school news outlet. Like, that's what she does. She reads the lunch menu and, like, says there's gonna be a game tonight.

And they're like, "Ugh, we need to do something different and alternative! We need to speak for ourselves!"

It's like, she—that's—she's literally just [through laughter] updating the bulletins of the school. What do you want her to do?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think—that is one thing I will say. Like, you are absolutely right, and they do a good job in season two of sort of, like, rehabilitating that character, and giving her more depth and more dimension, and then also, like, addressing the fact that she's really good at what she does, and she's high achieving, and she's got goals and plans, and her whole thing wasn't just to try to tear down [laughs quietly] whatever—The Man. Um, she's trying to do something with her life. And I feel like they address that a lot better.

And that is something that I noticed, is an effort to, um, be critical of the characters—like, your main characters—in a way that you don't always see in a teen show. Where—I was thinking of the episode where Lily runs for class president.

So, her whole thing is there's the girl who has always been class president, who's running again for class president. And she gives a speech, and in the speech she does say, "One of the things I wanna do is ban any sort of—" What does she say? Um... "socially..." Oh, what is the term she uses?

She uses a term for—basically, "I don't want anybody—you can't do anything that doesn't fit in."

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And—"socially disruptive?"

[pause]

I don't remember. Anyway... it—and as an example, she gives, like—like, you can't have pink hair.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And so Lily decides to run against her, basically on a platform of, "I don't know what I'm doing. [laughs quietly] But you don't either. We're all lost. We should all just be ourselves. I'm gonna be a class president who doesn't tell you what to do, who doesn't do anything. [laughs] I'm just gonna be a class president who tells you to just be yourselves, man, and that's it."

And by the end what she realizes is, like, "I don't even friggin' wanna be class president."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "And I also have no plans, and I don't know what I'm doing. [laughs] And this other girl has clearly devoted her life to being class president. And so, like, she's wrong about this freedom of expression issue, but she also probably is right about some other things, and maybe she's more complex than I'm making her."

And I thought it was a really, like, "Huh. This is a very... thoughtful episode of a teen show." You know? In 22 minutes?

Rileigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, and that's—that's not the—I mean, that's a consistent theme. There was the one where, uh, they get ahold of a tape of the—of Principal Waller back in his own radio DJ days, and they play it on RFR kind of mocking him. Um—

Rileigh: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Taylor: —and outing him as his own—as his old DJ personality. And in response, the principal wants to expose one of them. Because it's like, "Well, you exposed me without my permission. Like, I'm gonna do the same."

And it's kind of like, I didn't expect it to take the turn where Robbie, the—Question Mark, kind of the main character of RFR, he realizes that what he did was wrong, that he shouldn't have done that to the principal who's, like, clearly supposed to be the bad guy, and apologizes for it. And, like, that's the resolution? [laughs]

Sydnee: There's definitely growth like that. 'Cause they do—I mean, they—early on, they have an entire episode of their—I was about to say their podcast, but their radio show—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —where they just trash that Kim Carlisle character.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Which, as I'm watching it, I'm cringing, going, "Don't—no, that's so mean!"

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And you don't see that kind of thing, I will say, in kids' TV today, because it's—it's bullying, it's targeted, it's cruel. It's not funny. It's not clever. It's just mean. Um, and so I'm watching it, thinking, "Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!"

And, like, by the end of the—not that episode, but there is evolution through the whole season where they realize, like, "This sucks."

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like, "This is not cool. Like, none of that is fun or cool." Um, which you don't see in a lot of kid's shows. So, and it's pretty reflective of a lived experience of a teenager, which is, some kids are just super mean, and cruel. And what you hope is that maybe someday they'll learn, and won't be.

Taylor: [through laughter] Well, and that is kind of how you encounter empathy, right? Like, you do something and go, "Oh, wait! That made me feel bad. That's a—I shouldn't do that, 'cause that's the bad feeling." [laughs] And then you grow.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Hopefully.

Sydnee: They really do learn those things as the show goes on. Um, it's really impressive for what they try to do. I was reading, like, um, an article talking about it. And what they say is, like, they do this to sort of—they start this radio show so that they can say what they want and, like, share their ideas with other people, tell other people what they think, but what they end up doing a lot of the time is exposing what *they* think, and then having to, like, critique their own feelings and thoughts and opinions in a public forum, which is very uncomfortable, but is also... I mean, it's a metaphor for what you go through when you're a teenager.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You say something stupid [laughs] and everybody says, "Why did you just say that?!" And then you have to, like, stop and go, "Why *did* I say that? Maybe I should rethink that—that belief or that opinion, 'cause maybe it isn't a productive one."

Raleigh: Canadian TV, man.

Sydnee: It goes there.

Taylor: I was gonna say, like, this is—this came out—when—when was this, Syd?

Sydnee: 2003.

Taylor: 'Cause I feel like this is the time period—when we pull media from this time period there's a lot of, like—I mean, it was a product of its time, so you have to be aware of that. You have to be prepared for a bunch of inappropriate stuff that's gonna make you feel uncomfortable.

And when I was watching it I was like, "I don't—" outside of, like, I remember liking the character Ray, and then on rewatch I'm like, "Aw." Like, he's—his, like—flirtatious and, like—like, you know, interest in girls sometimes is a little creepy and a little cringey, but that's kind of the most offensive thing on the rewatch. Like, it doesn't have the kind of deeply problematic complete lack of representation that we're used to when we look at stuff from this time period.

Sydnee: That is absolutely true.

Rileigh: Yeah, that's true.

Sydnee: Um, I wanna talk more about the show itself, and also of a funny thing about where it started. But before I do that...

Rileigh: [laughs] Let's check the group message.

So, I have a new part of my before I sometimes, maybe, rarely leave the house routine.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Because, you know, you have to do the check for your phone, your keys, your wallet. You know, gotta do the little pat down of your pockets to make sure you have it all there, maybe check your purse.

Um, but there is one more thing I have added before I walk out the door, and that is Birdie. Birdie has become the newest essential addition to my routine, even though [holding back laughter] I'm not leaving the house as much as I wish I was.

It has become one of the things I always make sure to keep with me every time I leave, um, because Birdie is a personal safety alarm that is easy to carry and simple to use, which is very true, especially for someone like me who is not the most coordinated. I have found it very simple to figure out and use without any trouble or any difficulty.

Um, and when you activate it, the alarm emits a loud siren and flashing light to help deter an attack. So, you're in a situation where you feel uncomfortable. I know for me, there are lots of times I'm walking on my college campus alone at night and it's dark outside, um, so, you know, gotta have something that maybe makes you feel safe, in case something were to happen.

Sydnee: And it—I—it is very loud.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: The girls insisted we try it after we got it, um, and it is—it—it will get attention.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I have not had to use it, but I did try it [laughs quietly] when I got it, to see.

Sydnee: Well, you gotta—you gotta test it out, yeah.

Raleigh: You gotta try it. Yeah, you gotta see what's gonna happen. Um, it is a very loud alarm. It would definitely bring attention to anything you would need to in any sort of situation, and it's no danger to you, so you can feel confident using it.

You know, it's not like any other personal safety device that you could, you know, misuse or—

Sydnee: Accidentally harm yourself with, yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah, sure. Um, Birdie is not like that, and it comes in fun colors, so you'll actually wanna carry it. Mine's pink and it matches my keys and my wallet, so it goes with everything as well. So my—

Sydnee: Mine's black. It matches my doctor bag, so.

Raleigh: So there you go.

Sydnee: There you go, yeah.

Raleigh: You can match to all—[holding back laughter] all your accessories. Uh, so buy your Birdie today for a safer tomorrow. Teylor, if our listeners wanna check out Birdie, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, She's Birdie is offering our listeners 15% off your first purchase when you go to shesbirdie.com/buffering. That's shesbirdie, spelled S-H-E-S-B-I-R-D-I-E.com/buffering for 15% off.

Sydnee: So, I've already mentioned that I think about my socks.

Raleigh: [snorts quietly]

Sydnee: Uh, I like to make sure that my feet are comfortable, and sometimes coordinated. [laughs quietly] Uh, but one way or another, I devote time and energy to, uh, making sure I've got comfortable socks on my feet, and Bombas is my go-to to make sure that that happens. They have rethought every little detail of the socks we wear to make them more comfortable.

Um, and they are! They are super comfortable. I have long days on my feet, going from one—one job to the other, one role of my life to the other, and Bombas socks keep me comfortable and cozy and feeling good all—in all those situations.

Um, but it's more than that. It's more than just comfort for your feet, because for every pair of socks you purchase, Bombas donates a pair to someone in need. And the generosity of Bombas customers has allowed them to donate over 40 million pairs of socks and counting.

So, that's a lot of socks.

Rileigh: Wow, that's a lot of socks.

Sydnee: Yeah. And I can tell you, that is one—I work at a shelter for persons facing homelessness, and we often get that request for socks. Socks are a needed item, and so it is a—it's a wonderful thing that Bombas is doing, and, um, there's nothing better than putting on a clean, warm pair of socks when you've had a—when you know you've got a long day ahead, and everybody deserves that.

So, Teylor, if our listeners want to get some Bombas, what should they do?

Teylor: Well, you can give a pair when you buy a pair and get 20% off your first purchase at bombas.com/buffering. That B-O-M-B-A-S.com/buffering for 20% off your first purchase. Bombas.com/buffering.

Sydnee: So, one thing I learned, as I was reading about *Radio Free Roscoe*—which, by the way, I feel like it's—unlike—I mean, it's—you can't compare it to *Degrassi* too much, 'cause *Degrassi* is, like, this teen juggernaut show.

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] Yes, yeah.

Sydnee: Like, it was... on forever, multiple reincarnations. And if you wanna talk about a show that went there...

Raleigh: *Degrassi* went there.

Sydnee: [laughs] *Degrassi* always went there. Um, and so it—it—you can't compare it completely to that. *Radio Free Roscoe* was only two years, much shorter. Uh, and it seems to have sort of, like, vanished from a lot of people's, like, consciousness? Until you say it out loud, and then there are, like, 20 people in the room who go, "[gasps loudly] I loved that show!" [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: But nobody talks about it. So it's hard to find, like, a ton of history about it. You can, but—it's out there on the internet, but it's—there aren't as many thinkpieces, I guess.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: But anyway, it—when it was originally piloted, I guess it was supposed to be—it was filmed and it was supposed to be set in New Jersey.

Taylor: Oh!

Sydnee: In a town called Nutley. And so it was supposed to be called *Radio Free Nutley*.

Taylor: That's a—

Raleigh: I like that name.

Taylor: Oh. I—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: —I had the exact opposite reaction. That's terrible.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: And then—

Raleigh: I just think it's funny. [laughs]

Sydnee: —I guess it just—it was never picked up, nobody liked it, it was not—nobody was gonna do anything with it, and so they moved it to Canada, recast it, renamed it, reshot it, and... was popular for two years. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, I know. I thought that was very odd. I would love to find that.

Raleigh: Yeah! That pilot. I wonder who was in that originally.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: What if there was someone famous in that original cast.

Sydnee: I don't know.

Taylor: Nathan Stephenson played Question Mark.

Raleigh: Original un—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's interesting to think about.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, and it's also interesting to think about how it might've changed the show, because I always feel like, uh, Canadian shows have done—for kids, for teens—have done a better job of tackling tougher issues that require a little more nuance, um, than American teen shows historically have done. I'm not saying that that's a rule for every single one, but, like, generally speaking, um, they're willing to, like, do a slow burn to get you somewhere in a way that American shows aren't always prepared to do.

Rileigh: Yeah. It's like—

Sydnee: If you think of adult shows like *Schitt's Creek* is a great example—

Rileigh: [simultaneously] That's exactly what I was gonna say.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Where it builds to there, but it takes a while. Whereas, like, I feel like American TV is like, "We've gotta get their attention immediately and then keep it!" [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "Flashing lights! Sparkly things! Go, go, go!" [laughs]

Rileigh: Well, it's—I don't know if this is true or not, this is just my feeling, but I feel like there is just so much TV, so much American TV, that, like, you've gotta do something to keep people watching your American TV show or else, like, there's just something else on at that exact same time, or that is doing the exact same thing, they're gonna watch it instead.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Is that like—maybe there's just not as much—

Sydnee: [bursts into laughter]

Rileigh: —is there not as much, like—

Taylor: [through laughter] Competition?

Rileigh: —oversaturation of TV in Canada? I mean—like, you know what I mean? Like—

Sydnee: That's why—well, that's why *Radio Free Roscoe* only lasted two years, because you're only allowed to have one teen show in Canada, and *Degrassi*, you know...

Taylor: Oh, no.

Raleigh: Oh, sure.

Sydnee: ... is always gonna win, so—

Raleigh: You can only have the one.

Sydnee: —so RFR got two years and they were like, "Nope, back to *Degrassi* and that's it." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] The re—the rest of the day, the TV is just blank.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That's true. Uh—

Sydnee: No, I don't think that's true.

Raleigh: That's not what I meant.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I just meant, like... we make a lot of TV here.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Well—

Raleigh: And—and that doesn't—we go for a quantity over quality approach sometimes.

Sydnee: I think that is true. I don't know how much—I don't know how it compares to the rate of production of new shows in other countries, but we do, I will agree, go for a quantity over quality approach in many things in America.
[laughs]

Taylor: I think it's also just—I don't know. I... I really appreciate a show that doesn't have, like, emotional high stakes constantly. Or rather, doesn't invent them.

Because I—and I feel like when I watch, like—*Schitt's Creek's*, like you said, great example—but also with RFR it's like, things happen that I'm so used to the formulaic of, like, American, like, you know, dramas, that hearing somebody say something bad about you while you're walking up behind them, it's gonna be five episodes and your friendship's gonna fall apart and, you know, there's gonna be a horrible fight.

And instead having it resolved with like, "Hey, I'm sorry."

And like, "Oh, well, you know, that hurt me, but thank you for apologizing."

Like, the resolution to emotional conflict is far more frequent, and I think that just says something culturally about us. Like, you know, I realize how much my brain is expected for very basic, like, misunderstandings to escalate into huge emotional blowups because of the way that I've seen that portrayed in a lot of television, and it feels like a nice, safe resting place when I watch shows like this, where people resolve things in normal ways.

People understand that everybody has faults and sometimes someone's gonna let you down or disappoint you. It doesn't have to result in a blowup that takes an entire season to, like, bring two characters back together.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That's so true, and it's so true of teen shows especially. Um, and it's interesting you say that, Tey, 'cause you say it kind of made you expect that real interactions are gonna be that way. Or, like, you have that thought.

I wonder how much influence that does have, because if you think about it, in real life, if you've got a group of, you know, teens hanging out, it is not unusual

for a couple of 'em to date, and then break up, and then maybe a couple in that same group now date, and, like, everybody's still kind of friends. Um, like, that's a normal thing. But on TV, that's not—on TV, instead, usually on an American teen show, it's going to be like—like you said, devastating for everyone involved, and the source of huge emotional trauma.

When a lot of the time, when you're that age... I don't know. It feels that way for a day. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And then you're distracted by something else, because you're growing and changing and learning every day.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: I don't know. I wonder about that, how we frame things versus, like, this show, which really shows that reality where... Lily thinks she's into Travis for a while, but then realizes she really loves Ray, and everybody hugs and tells each other they love each other at the end.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it's all fine.

Taylor: Well, and it's funny, 'cause then you have, like, our teen programming now, which has taken that to the obvious end where you've got, like, *Riverdale* and stuff where people are straight up murdered. [laughs] [through laughter] Like, and everybody—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: —has, like, just murder and death and all sort of horrible things. Like, they just kept raising the bar for the drama level.

Raleigh: And also at the heart of it all is, is Archie going to be with Betty or Veronica—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: —or is Betty going to be with Jughead or what? What's goin' on there?
[laughs]

Taylor: I just hope they survive at this point? [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's—I was really—watching it again, I was really impressed with their willingness to talk about the things that people are worried about at that age, um, and take them seriously.

It really is, because like you said, they don't feel the need to just keep upping the ante with, like—[laughs quietly] like, a murder mystery. They're willing to stick with the stuff that probably would happen, but then give it the gravity that it has at that moment. No more, but just the gravity of that moment.

When Lily decides early in the series to have a day where she hangs out with a girl, and skips out on the radio show—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —[laughs quietly] and, like, the girl's like—what was her name?
Audrey?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think? She's, like, the popular cheerleader girl. And, like, they really could stereotype her very easily, and they try—and they don't. They pull it back. Like, at first you think that's who she is. Like, she's just shallow and that's her whole thing, and then they give her more depth. But anyway, Lily wants to hang out with a girl, and try out makeup.

And immediately, Ray starts, like, saying typical boy things about it. And Lily punches back right away and talks about, like, "Why is it—" it's funny, Justin and I had a conversation. He was like, "Is this really a problem?"

And I was like, "Yeah!" I said, "How is it that every time guys wanna hang out it's, like, sacred dude time. Like, you know they need that. Guys need that." I mean, that—

Rileigh: They need their dude time.

Sydnee: Right, and that almost never goes away.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, that's always so important. But when you ask, like, "What do you think—what do you think women do when they hang out together?"

It's like, "I don't know. Go get margaritas and complain about your husbands?"

Rileigh: Go shopping and get, like, mani-pedis. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. I mean, like, that's—you get these kind of really offensive, stereotypical—not that there's anything wrong with that. You can go shopping and get mani-pedis. You can go drink margaritas and complain about your husband if you want.

Rileigh: Love all that stuff.

Sydnee: But we get lumped into this really, like—it's trite, it's silly, it's *girl*. As opposed to, like, guys and bonding.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And that's what Lily talks about. And I was like, "Well, that's—that's a very intelligent, progre—" especially in 2003.

Rileigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: I mean, that's why you have all the posters now, the banners in various frat houses and dorms that say "Saturdays are for the boys."

Taylor: Wait—what?

Sydnee: [simultaneously] What?

Raleigh: Yeah. That's a very, very common, now, phrase in the modern... vernacular.

Taylor: I hate that. What does that mean? [laughs]

Sydnee: What does that mean?

Raleigh: Saturdays are for the boys.

Sydnee: Why?

Raleigh: To—to... bro... out. Together.

Taylor: Why do—why do they get Saturday?

Raleigh: To boy together.

Taylor: That's a whole day!

Raleigh: I—it's for them. To be together.

Taylor: We only have seven in a week!

Raleigh: Which means, like, if you're—if you're dating a boy, mm—mm, not on Saturdays. Saturdays are for the boys. To be together.

Sydnee: Do I get a day?

Raleigh: I—no. That—unless you're a boy. [holding back laughter] Then you can get Saturdays.

Sydnee: Well—[snorts] shoot. I almost said a curse word there.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Well—

Sydnee: Well, I don't think that's a healthy or productive...

Raleigh: No, I agree. But it just—it made me think of it.

Taylor: Yeah. I mean, it's fine in a relationship to set time together and time apart. I think that's healthy. But, you know, I don't think I like that. [laughs] That idea.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Why does it have—why does it have to be gendered that way? Why can't it just be like, "Saturdays are a great time to hang out with friends."

Raleigh: That's not as—

Sydnee: How about that?

Raleigh: That's not as catchy. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, I mean, like...

Raleigh: That doesn't fit on a banner.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I don't know.

Raleigh: "[holding back laughter] Saturdays are a great time to hang out with friends."

Sydnee: I mean, friends are great.

Raleigh: "To spend time in your platonic relationships." [laughs] I'm not saying I disagree, I'm just—envisioning that poster is very, very funny to me.

[all laugh]

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: That's just—ugh. Well, I don't like that at all. That feels... ugh. But—but, you know, it's a good comparison, 'cause you can imagine if a sorority was like, "Saturday is for the girls." Immediately what everybody would say about it. Like, "Oh, for the girls!"

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "What are you gonna do? Drink a White Claw and do your nails?" I mean, you know?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Sounds kinda nice. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: I'd be down!

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: I don't—[laughs] I don't wanna do either of those things, but I have no problem with you if you do.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] Justin can have the White Claw.

Raleigh: Yeah. Justin drinks White Claws more than you do.

Sydnee: He loves White Claw, yeah. I don't get it, guys.

Raleigh: [crosstalk]

Sydnee: I don't get it. There's beer out there. I don't get it.

Taylor: Well, but it is nice—I mean, you know, in the world of RFR—like, that episode is there to kind of point out, you know, that's a good—that's a good thing

to comment on. But also, like, that—everybody is friends and, like, yeah, Lily's a girl, you know, she's—her best friends seem to be this group of dudes.

Like, that's not really, like, a big sticking point in it. Like, "She's not like other girls," which is kind of a cliché character from that time period. Like, Lily is a full character that's not defined by the fact that she's friends with men.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: That's very true.

Sydnee: Yeah. I am impressed with how well so much of it holds up in that sense, where the characters are all full people who—not awful people, *all full*. You know what I mean. [laughs]

Raleigh: They're awful people?!

Sydnee: No! [laughs]

Raleigh: Aw!

Sydnee: They're all, like, well rounded.

Raleigh: They're whole.

Sydnee: They're whole people. Um, who have different interests and ideas and thoughts, and then also make mistakes, and sometimes do things that are genuinely not nice.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, and have to sometimes atone for those things, and realize that mistake. Um, when Lily... basically—I mean, she doesn't convince Ray to break up with his girlfriend, but she certainly—

Raleigh: She kind of does.

Sydnee: —she—she instigates a lot of—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: —at least *how* he does it is all her, quite directly. Um, and it's not nice!

Raleigh: Mm-mm.

Sydnee: None of it is nice.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: And it is seen as not. It is shown as not nice. And, like, I think that is a good thing, that she looks like the bad guy in that scene, because that is a—that's a bad—everything she's suggesting is bad. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Well, I mean, it's like what you said about them bullying, um...

Taylor: Kim?

Raleigh: I'm blanking on her name. Kim, yes.

Sydnee: Kim, mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Um, like, usually in shows now you see bullying, but it's always the people that are very obviously the bad guys, so that kids are like, "Oh, only the mean girls or the bad guys or whatever—like, the mean group of kids, they bully. Not the main characters. They're nice. They would never."

But in this show, I mean, they're the—I mean, your protagonists, your main characters, that also sometimes are kind of mean, or do bad things. But that you see that, which I think is nice. It's like what you said. They're full people. Like, you can see main characters that make mistakes and do bad things. They're aren't, like, the perfect protagonist teen that makes no mistakes.

Taylor: You know, that—that's true with Lily, Robbie, and Ray. Does Travis ever have to... evolve or learn? Or is he just a fully evolved being from the beginning? 'Cause I'm trying to, like—[laughs] he's—he's sort of an anomaly on the show! [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: He is, he is. The only time—there's, like, one episode where, when he won't date Audrey. Because he said, "I know girls like that. They see a new guy in school, they think he's mysterious 'cause he's quiet. They wanna date me, but then... " What does he say? "They find out about my interest in... uh, weird Japanese horror movies, and—"

Taylor: Oh yeah, [crosstalk]

Sydnee: Something else, yeah. And they run away immediately. And Lily's like, "Well, maybe you should stop assuming. Like, you're so afraid that somebody's gonna reject you that you won't even connect with people. Maybe you should stop assuming about people?"

Taylor: Yeah, that's true.

Sydnee: Like, she lands a punch there.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. And I guess he does have the whole, like—his whole thing is that he's different and he doesn't fall in line with anybody, but to the point that he almost leaves the show because he doesn't wanna need anybody's validation, but there is a point in friendship where you actually do care what people think about you. And that's, you know—that can be scary, I guess, for somebody that kind of defines themselves as not needing anybody's approval.

Sydnee: He—he says that at the end, right before he leaves. He says to Robbie, "I made my world big, but you made it small, and I thank you for that."

Which, again, who says that on a teen show?!

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah, really.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [through laughter] Jeez!

Sydnee: But I will say, he is given that sort of, like—he's, like, the... the magic character in it, right? Like in a lot of teen shows, you get, like, the—it's usually the manic pixie dream girl. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But instead in this, you get... Travis.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] Travis.

Sydnee: Who, like, enters, and gets all of these characters to think about, like, "We could speak for ourselves and we could make our own way," and then the last scene is, like, them all doing RFR as Travis, like, walks away, nodding and smiling. Like, "I've done this. I'm back to Hong Kong now."

Taylor: [laughs] Yep.

Sydnee: And that's what he does! He goes back to Hong Kong. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, "Good. My work here is done." [laughs loudly]

Rileigh: Then he just kind of, like, vanishes.

Taylor: Yep.

Rileigh: Slowly disappears.

Sydnee: He kind of does! He just, like, vanishes as they're continuing their...

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I guess—

Sydnee: I guess their radio show. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, that makes sense, though. I mean, it was his introduction that started it off, and that's, you know, the end of the show, the outro. Um, you know, one thing that I don't think we've talked about, which I—I mean, it's

interesting, 'cause Syd, I'm sure you enjoy this for the reason that I did. But Raleigh, I'm curious how you felt about this.

The aesthetics of the show, the deeply 90's grunge, alternative, the costuming, the coffee house they all hang out at. Like, all of the CDs. I loved that. I kind of miss that. [laughs]

Sydnee: Did it make sense to you when they were standing at a rack of CDs, listening to headphones?

Raleigh: [laughs] Um—

Sydnee: That were plugged in?

Raleigh: I can't—I can't—

Sydnee: To the CD rack? [laughs] Did that—

Raleigh: —I can't say [laughs quietly] it made sense to me because I've had that experience, but in the sense that I remember in your... apartment?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Or one of your first houses, I remember CD racks. You had... several.

Sydnee: 'Cause it—'cause they're standing in that coffee shop, Mickey's, and there are CDs on sale there.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And they're like—like, you could listen to CDs in the music store. Like, sometimes they would have headphones there with, like, new releases already playing, and you could put 'em on and push a button and listen. [pause] To the—

Raleigh: That's—

Sydnee: —to the mu—

Raleigh: —that's wild.

Sydnee: Well, 'cause you hadn't heard it yet, unless you—unless you happened to hear it on the radio.

Raleigh: Wow, I didn't even think about that.

Sydnee: They do mention, like, MP3s. So, like, we are at a point in 2003 where obviously, like, you could hear music other places. But not—not always widely or easily.

Taylor: Well, you had to usually buy the CD to then put it on your MP3 player. Like, you know...

Sydnee: Had Napster happened yet?

Taylor: I think—well, okay. So this was—Napster was high school for me, and that was, like, 2004. So that—yeah, Napster might've been an early thing.

Sydnee: This is right around that time, at least.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And this is very, very few years before iPhone, iPod, so... comin' up on that time.

Sydnee: Yeah, it's—it is—it does have a very 90's aesthetic, though.

Raleigh: It does. And, like, where you all talk about it like it makes you nostalgic or miss it or whatever, to me it's just like, "Is this... what... what would this have been like to experience in real life?"

Like, to me I see it and I'm like, "This is—this exists in this media and in this fictional world. This is not real."

Like, it's very weird to me, 'cause I have never experienced a—a society such as this. [laughs]

Sydnee: Oh, it was—

Taylor: The weird thought that I had—especially the—I think Mickey's is kind of the home of the 90's aesthetic, there. But, like, what was that—there was a

music store downtown. Was it—it wasn't *Second Time Around*, was it? That sold used CDs?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: 'Cause I remember going in there and just—you couldn't listen to anything. Just looking at the artwork. And, like, I'd pick a genre that I knew I'd like. Like, I'd go to, like, the punk section, and then just look at the artwork and pick something based on the artwork. And that that was such an essential part of selling music back then, you know?

You have so many, like, iconic 90's album covers, but that's because that was part of the selling mechanism, you know? That—all—all albums have artwork still, when somebody releases a new one, but it's not used in the same way. That was part of the package.

Sydnee: It is very much a time capsule in that way. Well, the whole idea of, like, as a teenager, you're turning on the radio?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Which—that's what—I was watching and, um, it occurred to me, like, that used to be the primary activity at a lot of slumber parties I attended. Was turning on the radio and listening to, like, a radio show, and the music that would come on during the show, and then sometimes trying to call in and get a song played on the radio. Like, listening to a radio—like, no—I mean, we—not that we didn't watch movies. But, like, that wasn't—we weren't watching TV or movies, certainly there weren't YouTubes or anything. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: YouTubes?

[all laughs]

Sydnee: We were—[laughs]

Raleigh: Sydnee.

Taylor: There were not the YouTubes. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: It's 2021.

Sydnee: I'm just saying, like, we would listen to a radio show. Also, 88.1 was WMUL, which I always appreciated.

Rileigh: Oh, that's the Marshal One.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And that was the *Radio Free Roscoe* frequency.

Rileigh: Hmm.

Sydnee: On a side note, Justin brought this up as we were watching it last night. There were—I don't know what Canadian law is, but in the US, that might be illegal, what they're doing.

Taylor: Bro—broadcasting over... whatever airways?

Sydnee: They don't have a license to do it, and they're also playing other people's music over it.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah. You're probably right.

Sydnee: He said—he said, "I'm not certain, but I feel like that's not legal here." And—nah, I don't know. Maybe in Canada that's okay. I don't know.

But—and I said, "Maybe it has to do with the two square mile radius of their—"

Rileigh: That it's so small?

Sydnee: Yeah, maybe if it's small enough the rules are different.

Rileigh: Maybe, yeah.

Sydnee: Because it's just, like, for you and your friends.

Taylor: I do—I do think you wouldn't get off the ground with that now. [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, please don't try that.

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: Out there. Um—

Raleigh: Just have a podcast. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Just have—yeah, you can make a podcast. I mean, don't—don't play other people's music on there.

Raleigh: For longer than 10 seconds.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: We can do that.

Sydnee: Yeah. But, um... but you can just have a podcast now.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So there it was, the birthplace of podcasts.

Raleigh: Basically. The—the... ancestor.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: The father.

Sydnee: I will probably forever ship Lily and Travis?

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Rileigh: Interesting.

Sydnee: That was who I shipped, but I think it was because I was attracted to them both so much.

Rileigh: [through laughter] Okay, that makes sense.

Sydnee: Like, I think in my teenage brain that was how that worked. Like, "Well, they should be together," and it was because I found them both very attractive. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: That makes sense.

Sydnee: So... well, thank you both.

Rileigh: Thank you.

Sydnee: I enjoyed rewatching that.

Rileigh: I had never heard of this show until last week. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Now my t-shirt makes sense.

Rileigh: Now your t-shirt makes so much more sense.

Taylor: It brought back a lot of good—a lot of the times that we would watch RFR would be on The N, which was, like, the late night Nickelodeon network, and that would be after getting Taco Bell at, like, one o' clock in the morning, and we'd watch—[through laughter] we'd watch *Degrassi* and *Radio Free Roscoe* and *Daria*. That was the lineup. It was—it was good.

Sydnee: It was so good. It's hard to beat that. Honestly, that lineup right there? How do you beat that?

Taylor: Right? That with a chalupa. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] That's pretty good!

Sydnee: It was the—if you look at, like, SNICK lineups, and some of the great ones, that N lineup beat them all.

Taylor: It was good.

Sydnee: I know, I am talking about things—Raleigh's looking at me like "I don't understand anything you're saying right now."

Taylor: Man.

Raleigh: I can remember the concept of a TV lineup.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh.

Raleigh: From my—my youth.

Sydnee: [quietly] Oh my gosh. [sighs]

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: Taylor, what's next?

Taylor: Alright. Uh, so next is gonna be sort of a multimedia choice. Um, I wanna talk about *Tank Girl*, which is both a comic book series, and then there was a movie that... people have mixed opinions about. But I wanna talk a little bit about both, 'cause it was definitely a, uh—a very influential property on my personal, like, comic style, my just physical style. It's just... something that I very much love.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Alright!

Raleigh: Awesome.

Sydnee: Well, that sounds great.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, thank you both. This has been fun. Thank you, listeners. I hoped you enjoyed [laughs] hearing about the proto-podcast.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Um, if you haven't listened, it's—or watched *Radio Free Roscoe*—

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] Listened.

Sydnee: Listened.

[all laugh]

Taylor: That'd be cool if you could actually just get the whole radio shows to listen to. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah, just listen to the radio show.

Sydnee: That would be cool.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: If you took out all the 90's cuts between scenes in there, where people are skateboarding and listening to CDs, the show would probably be ten minutes long, by the way. [laughs]

Rileigh: That's true. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: Uh, but anyway, thank you for listening. [laughs] You should go to Maximumfun.org for lots of podcasts you might enjoy. I don't think *Radio Free Roscoe* is on there yet, but we'll keep lobbying for it.

Taylor: What are those actors doing now? I mean, if they wanted to come back and do a meta RFR podcast, I would love it. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It was—you can look 'em all up. They're all still out there. Well, most of them are still out there doing things, I found. Not all of them. Some of them sort of have disappeared into the internet and I don't know where they are, but...

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: Um—uh... somebody crossed over to *Degrassi*. I forget who. One of 'em crossed over to *Degrassi*. Anyway.

Raleigh: Makes sense.

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh, you can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[theme music plays in the background]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

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

Sydnee: And I'm Sydnee. And I'm wondering...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I'm just bummed that I didn't know cool alternative identities were an option for podcasts. I wish we would've known that.

Sydnee: Aww...

Raleigh: Aww.

Sydnee: Okay. By next time, we're introducing ourselves with our new identities.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

[theme music plays and ends]

[music plays]

James: Hey, folks! It's me, James Arthur M., host of *Minority Korner*, your home through these bewild times for weekly doses of pop culture, history, news, nerdy stuff, and more through a BIPOC, queer, and allied lens.

That's how you get Joel Schumacher putting nipples on Batman.

Speaker 2: Yes. It's like, no! [laughs]

James: I didn't ask—and I say this as a gay—I say this as a gay man—didn't ask for it. I don't need to see Batman's nipples on a suit. Who is this for?! [laughs]

Speaker 2: Who is this for?

Nnekay: I did a bunch of research. I wanted to just know about the history of Black people in Argentina. So, not only did they erase Black people from their history, they also started to flip and use it as slurs.

James: We're not done. Like, we're not done with the work that needs to be done.

Nnekay: Yeah.

James: And so, stay awake.

So join me and some of your new BFFs every Friday, here on Maximum Fun, to stay informed, empowered, and have some fun. *Minority Korner*: because together, we're the majority.

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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