

## Still Buffering 257: "Legally Blonde" (2001)

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[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Sydnee:** Well, Taylor, on the— the day we're recording this, not the day it will be released— uh, but on this day that we're recording this, I want to wish you a happy Trans Day... of Visibility.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Not just happy Trans Day. That—[laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That sounds like I should've gotten you a present.

**Taylor:** Why didn't you, actually? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uhh... [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Uhh...

**Taylor:** I've gifted you with the ability to perceive me. Most days we cannot be perceived. But today...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** This one day. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Today you can see me!

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** It's a very dangerous day, actually! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I think, uh, with as crappy as our society can be towards transgender people, if you had the power of invisibility, that would be fair.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like, I think that would be a fair balance if, like, you could make yourself selectively visible and invisible.

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** Or maybe flight, or...

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I was gonna say—

**Sydnee:** ... super strength. X-ray vision. *Laser* vision!

**Raleigh:** Taylor, do you have all of these?

**Sydnee:** Which one of these powers would you like?

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Uhh... that would— if that—if that's what I got, every Trans Day of Visibility we gotta pick up a new superpower, that would be— that would— you know what? I was gonna say that would be great. That's a fair exchange, I think, for everything else that comes with the package. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** You get to pick whichever superpower you want, so.

**Taylor:** I think... I think I'd go with flight, first. That was always my go-to.

**Sydnee:** It's the best, right?

**Raleigh:** Pretty good.

**Sydnee:** Ooh, Raleigh has a difference of opinion. See, I— Taylor, I always felt flight was the one. Like, if you could pick... flight.

**Taylor:** Yeah, what— what is better than flight?

**Raleigh:** Um... I mean, is teleportation up in there?

**Taylor:** Oh, well that's just quick flight! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** What about— okay, okay. Well, then if we're not— okay. Um... then invisibility.

**Sydnee:** You would rather have invisibility than flight?

**Rileigh:** I always— I am the nosiest person—

**Taylor:** You wanna do sneaky things.

**Rileigh:** I wanna know when people are talking about me, and I wanna know what they're saying about me.

**Sydnee:** More than you want to *fly* like an eagle across the sky?!

**Rileigh:** I don't like— I don't like heights! Heights scare me! I think I would get freaked out. I think the first time I got up there I would say, "Nope! This is not for me!" and come right back down.

**Taylor:** You could just fly, like, just slightly— like, just above—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —like, where the cars drive. You know? Like—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Just, like, eight feet off the ground. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's called a hover, I think.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Well...

**Sydnee:** You just want the ability to hover.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Just vibrates four inches off the ground. That's fine.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** I can't believe you would choose invi—

**Rileigh:** Or to read people's minds. That would be cool.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** I mean, that is a... oh.

**Taylor:** These are very creepy choices, Rileigh. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That one's tricky.

**Rileigh:** I just—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That one... hmm. Sometimes I don't wanna know.

**Taylor:** Never! I don't ever wanna know what somebody else is thinking about me.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Um, I mean, if immortality is up in there, I guess I'd pick that one.

**Rileigh:** Now, is that a superpower?

**Sydnee:** I don't know. Is— I— [laughs] what— is it?

**Rileigh:** 'Cause do you get— do you get to exert that power in any other way, other than just, like... "Bye, everybody. I'm never leavin'." [laughs] Like, that's it.

**Taylor:** I... hmm. It depends, because— immortality can be tricky, 'cause if it's immortality, like, paired with, like, eternal youth and, like, a healing factor, great. Cool on it. If it's immortality, like, you just don't die, but you're gonna keep getting [through laughter] older and older and sicker, and if you get an injury it's just like— oh, you just have it now. Like... that's— that's bad.

**Sydnee:** What about, like... what about like in *Doctor Strange* where, like, the Ancient One draws on the energy from... whatever. The dark dimension or whatever.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** To remain alive forever. Is that acceptable?

**Rileigh:** I mean, what Taylor is describing is *Twilight*.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Is never— is eternal youth.

**Sydnee:** That's vampire.

**Taylor:** That's vampire—

**Rileigh:** And never dying.

**Taylor:** —minus teeth. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** You just wanna be an energy vampire. You don't drink blood, you just suck energy from other people.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And then maybe Benedict Cumberbatch is there, is all I'm saying.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Okay. Well, that's— that's— being close to Benedict Cumberbatch is not a superpower, I think. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's really what Sydnee wants.

**Sydnee:** I mean, it's up there. [laughs]

**Taylor:** To summon Benedict Cumberbatch whenever you want him there? That would get really... that would be unfortunate for him.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I don't— that's a creepy— that is the creepiest of superpowers that we've invented so far, and I reject it.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah, Rileigh— Rileigh, you're good, actually. Yours are no longer creepy.

**Rileigh:** Thank you.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That is—

**Rileigh:** It was Sydnee all along.

**Sydnee:** That was not what I meant. [laughs] That was not what I was— [laughs] please don't interpret my actions in that way!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I just want to shake his hand and tell him how good he is at acting. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Well. Well, I, uh— I don't know— I don't know what the, uh... what is the— what— what brings me my superpowers today?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Is there a special, like, Santa, Easter Bunny, Great Pumpkin-type figure?

**Taylor:** I'm— mmm. You know, I might have some bias here, because I really like birds. But people use eggs as analogies for, like, you know, being trans, and then coming out of your egg. So maybe it's— maybe it's a big bird? Not *the* Big Bird. Although that's cool if—[laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** *The* Big Bird?! You get visited by *the*— *the* Big Bird.

**Taylor:** You know what? The queer community loves to adopt very strange characters— like, you know, we made the Babadook gay. Like, "Yeah, that's ours. He's ours now." Uh, sure.

**Sydnee:** You— you took Babadook.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I— I'll claim— I'll claim Big Bird. What a great— like, wouldn't that be great? You just wake up—

**Sydnee:** I think that's fine.

**Taylor:** —and Big Bird's like, "Hey! Hello! You can fly now!" [laughs] And then he leaves. Here's some—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —I don't know. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And it's even better, 'cause I don't think he *can* fly.

**Taylor:** Oh, that's—

**Rileigh:** Can he?

**Sydnee:** Uh... can— I don't think I've ever seen Big Bird fly.

**Rileigh:** He's just too big.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] He's too big!

**Rileigh:** [laughs] He's too big of a bird! I mean, he's, like, ten feet tall.

**Sydnee:** He is a very tall bird.

**Taylor:** Big, big bird.

**Sydnee:** Hence the name. Uh, only if he brings— that would be great, if he could bring Snuffy. Snuffy was always my favorite.

**Taylor:** Well, that's— that's great. Just visited by Sesame Street.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] That makes a lot of sense.

**Taylor:** That's fine. I'm...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** You always like Eeyore, too. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I do. I like the ones—

**Taylor:** You like the big, sad ones. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** The big, sad ones!

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I do like the big, sad ones. I also like the ones that move slowly. No sudden movements. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I always liked Bert and Ernie, but they belong to the queer community as well, right?

**Taylor:** Um...

**Sydnee:** Uh... is that— I mean, yes—

**Taylor:** It's not canon, but— I think—

**Rileigh:** I mean, not, like, canon. But, like—

**Taylor:** We claimed them, yes.

**Rileigh:** We've claimed them.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Sure.

**Taylor:** [laughs] We have— "Mine, now." [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs] "This is mine."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] "We will take this, thank you."

**Taylor:** I do feel like—

**Sydnee:** "Bye-ee!"

**Taylor:** —like, you know, when I— when I try to, like, see the kind of relationship I hope I have one day in, like, media, it's rarely there. But then, like, with Bert and Ernie I'm like, "That seems fine." They, like, you know... [laughs] they have their own spaces, they have their own identities, but then, like, they're also, you know, cohabiting. I think that—that seems good. I'm into that.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Seems gay. I'm down.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Well, I hope you get whatever superpower you most desire on this most happiest of days.

**Taylor:** Well, hopefully. When we get done with this, I hope, uh— I hope Big Bird shows up.

**Sydnee:** Yes. I hope Big Bird comes and, um, you will enjoy the traditional Trans Day of Visibility meal, which is...

**Taylor:** Uhh... I mean—

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** So far I've had—

**Sydnee:** Canned coffee is what I've seen you consume so far. So is it coffee from a can?

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, I've had two— two canned iced coffee, Boss Coffee from Japan. [laughs quietly] So I don't— that's very specific. I don't know. I don't know.

[pause]



**Taylor:** Uhh...

**Sydnee:** Well.

**Rileigh:** I mean, I think it's like Candenights. You're kind of creating this lore, now.

**Taylor:** Yeah. But I— but—

**Rileigh:** So I think it's just... you get to.

**Taylor:** I think— but I think it's gotta be collaborative, you know? Like, we— we started the conversation. I'm sure people can add to it. I'm fine with a whole... [laughs quietly] I would like there to be food involved.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I'd always like there to be food involved.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Maybe that would be my superpower. I could just think of any food I wanted, and then it would just, boop! Then it'd be there in front of me.

**Taylor:** Oh, that would be great.

**Sydnee:** That would be a great superpower.

**Rileigh:** Oh, that would be so great. Especially foods you could only get at, like, certain restaurants that aren't where you live.

**Sydnee:** Or, like, cartoon food? Like the way—

**Rileigh:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Like the way pizzas look in *Archie Comics*, but I could generate that pizza right in front of me.

**Taylor:** What—

**Sydnee:** Ohh.

**Taylor:** There's a lot of good— I like that that's where you went. I'm thinking, like, beautifully rendered noodles in, like, anime movies. And Sydnee's like, "No! The— the— the two-color pizza in [through laughter] *Archie Comics*!"

**Sydnee:** That's really gooey and, like hanging on— like, the strings are coming down, and... yep.

**Taylor:** [crosstalk]

**Rileigh:** I was imagining the breakfast from *Howl's Moving Castle*.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** The big bacon and the big eggs.

**Sydnee:** That is a good one. That is a good one.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Or a sandwich from *Scooby Doo*.

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** I think that's just a Subway, Syd! [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah, that's just— you can get that. That's just a big ol' sandwich. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** What are we talking about this week?

**Taylor:** Uh, sandwiches?

**Rileigh:** Archie's pizza? I don't know.

**Taylor:** Birds?

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Big Bird.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Big Bird.

**Rileigh:** And all of his relatives. Um, no. We're talking about *Legally Blonde* this week. This was my— my week, my topic, *Legally Blonde*. Although before me— it came out in 2001, so I guess after I existed, but before I was aware of anything, really.

**Sydnee:** You— you probably didn't watch that movie in 2001.

**Rileigh:** No, no.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I think I probably would've, uh... yeah. Not at a real— understood what was going on, really. I mean, what do babies know at one year old? Nothing.

**Sydnee:** They certainly don't understand the law.

**Rileigh:** Right.

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** Okay. [crosstalk]

**Taylor:** Babies are lawless creatures.

**Sydnee:** They—

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** They never understand the law.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** "I'm a baby! I don't know the law!"

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** Um, but this movie became very important to me as I got older. I couldn't tell you the first time I saw it, but I know now in my life I have probably seen it at least a dozen times. Um, and I certainly saw it at a formative enough point in my life where I decided, "Hmm. That seems like a good life plan." And then I decided to go to law school.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** That was it?

**Rileigh:** That was it.

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** That was it.

**Rileigh:** That was it!

**Sydnee:** Except instead of a tiny dog, you got Ruth.

**Rileigh:** I got Ruth, the guinea pig. Um, I did consider naming her Bruiser for a period of time, before I had named her. Because of course Elle has this tiny dog named Bruiser, which is very funny. Because, how ironic is that? He's so small.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** But he's named Bruiser. I thought about this for my guinea pig, and then I went with Ruth Bader Guineasberg instead, which I think still follows, like, the theme.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Sure.

**Rileigh:** Right? It still follows, like, the pattern.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, yeah. And it's a good pun. I like that.

**Rileigh:** It's a good pun.

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

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um, if you haven't seen *Legally Blonde*, it did come out in 2001, and it's about Elle Woods, who is from California, and is a very blonde, stereotypical sorority girl, um, who is dating Warner Huntington III, and thinks he's going to propose, and thinks they're gonna get married, 'cause they're about to graduate college, and instead he breaks up with her because he's going to Harvard Law School, and he needs someone serious. Uh, 'cause he's gonna be, like, a serious politician and lawyer, and she's... too... blonde. And then she decides, "Well, you know what? Then I'm gonna show you I'm serious. I'm gonna go to Harvard Law School also."

And she does. That's pretty much the movie. Um... yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, I, uh— I watched the movie again to refresh my memory. Um, and I have to say, I enjoyed it again.

**Rileigh:** Well, good.

**Sydnee:** I enjoyed it then, I enjoyed it now.

**Rileigh:** Good.

**Sydnee:** It's clever, it's funny. It, um— it made Justin laugh out loud several times.

**Rileigh:** Really?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Like, loud enough that I had to say, "Shh! You'll wake the kids."

**Rileigh:** That's very funny to me.

**Taylor:** Huh.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I would not expect that. Um... obviously, I mean, this was not the reason I decided to go to law school. There were other reasons. But this was— this was part of it, I'm not gonna lie. And I think I'm not alone in that. I think there are probably plenty of other people out there that saw Elle Woods go to law school and thought, "Well, okay. I can also do that."

Um, but I do wanna point out, before we get started talking about it— because it was very important to me, and was, like, a good movie in my life, that it is— there are some things that need to be discussed, some things that would be, I think, different, and would be fixed if this movie was made today.

**Sydnee:** Sure.

**Rileigh:** Um, mainly that the crux of the movie is that the di— the, uh... the discrimination she faces because she's... a blonde woman.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** And that's, like, her whole thing, is she is stereotyped and discriminated against at law school because she's a blonde girl that wears pink, and likes... feminine things.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. I think— I think that central conceit, like, it can work. I mean, it's still funny.

**Rileigh:** Sure, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, you can do that. Because, like, in many ways there are aspects of this that remind me of *Clueless*.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** You know? And the same idea. Like, all Cher knows about is shopping. No! She also cares about civil responsibility.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Um, and so, like, you can play with that. I think the only thing that— I think the problem with it in today's world is that there are so many beats that feel like, "Oh, look, she's suffering from a microaggression here." Or, like, they even use the word "diversity" to, like, accept her to the— "Don't we want more diversity in the law school?"

And it's like...

**Raleigh:** Come on.

**Sydnee:** Come on, guys! [laughs] And I— you wouldn't be so clueless in 2021 if you were making the movie to, like— you'd talk— you wouldn't use those terms.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I mean, I don't think it's unfair to say that there's a lot of undue hatred and assumptions directed towards anyone that's overly feminine. I mean, I think that that is actually valid, and the fact that she's very happy in her—[laughs] excessive femininity is something that gets her judged in a lot of ways. But yeah, equating it to, like, actual oppression, and that's where it kind of—[laughs] it crosses a line.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I do think it— it is valid to the extent in which it is fair to assume— and I will say, based off personal experiences— that in, like, a law classroom, or in my experience a political science classroom, somewhere that is dominated by men, typically, that a woman would not be taken as seriously, or would be thought less of, or someone who walks into the classroom wearing all pink and is, like you said, excessively feminine and very comfortable in that, everyone would be like, "Well... she doesn't know what she's talking about."

I think that is fair to that point, that it's not wild to assume a woman going to law school that looks the way Elle presents herself, people would be like, "What?" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Well, and I think it—

**Sydnee:** It exists in medicine too, I would say.

**Raleigh:** Oh, yeah, yeah, I'm sure.

**Sydnee:** Just on a side note, yeah.

**Taylor:** And I think a lot of women feel that they have to throw all that away in order to be taken seriously and, you know, that's— whatever your personal style aesthetic choices, that's up to you. But if you're doing it to be taken seriously at the sacrifice of yourself, that's... that's a problem.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, I think— I think that that's— if you lean more into the— like, the trappings of femininity, do not mean that you are unintelligent or incapable. If you lean more into that theme, it works better.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And I think— and I think, like, again, anything that's of that time just didn't... it didn't have the nuance, and didn't always have, like, the crew behind the camera.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** To— to address those issues before they made it to the screen. You know what I mean?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, and I mean, it was— it was based off— that was Amanda Brown wrote the book *Legally Blonde*, just very shortly before the movie came out. I think only a year or two. And it was based on her personal experiences at Stanford Law School.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And she said she was a girl who was obsessed with fashion and beauty, and read *Elle Magazine* frequently, which is where the name for the character came from, um, and how she experienced going to Stanford Law School as that kind of person. So it was based off personal experience but, um, I think— and this was something we talked about

before we started, Teylor, I think you had mentioned, it's like a very hyperbolic story. It's all... an exaggeration. It is all caricature.

**Sydnee:** And that was— as I was watching the movie, that was sort of how I kind of framed it in my head. Is, like, all of this seems outrageous because it's supposed to, because these are caricatures of people and not real people. And then it makes more sense in that. And then, like, it's funnier too, in the com— it seems more absurd, and the comedy works. And, like, I think if you frame it that way, then you don't have to, like, hyper-critique every single beat that it hits or misses, you know?

**Rileigh:** Sure. It was not trying to be anything more, I think, than a comedy that was about Elle going to law school, that had some undertones of, like, these are real kinds of people that exist in, I don't know, male-dominated professions, and in the world. But we're not trying to, like, make a societal statement, if you will. We're not trying to fix anything.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um, I think was— is probably the goal.

**Sydnee:** I do like, you know— because I do think, like, they're try— they're trying to address sexism, obviously, in some ways. Um, I enjoy that there are these scenes of, like, women supporting women in it, um, repeatedly. Like, that theme keeps coming back, which is nice. Um, it's kind of refreshing, because you don't see that a lot in movies, you usually see women constantly at each other's throats, competing for whatever the prize is, whether it be a man or whatever, a job title.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, and you see her, like, shift from— she wants to get married, so her sorority sisters all support her and celebrate her. And then she wants to go to law school, so they all support her and celebrate her. And initially there's the whole romantic rival thing with, like, her boyf— her ex-boyfriend's new fiancée, and then by the end they're, like, friends and, like, they realize they shouldn't turn on each other, and... that he's a jerk, and— you know? I mean, like, I think that those are nice themes that, um, are kind of unique in that time period, even.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And, I mean, it is very white feminism.

**Teylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** It is quite white, yes.



**Rileigh:** It is very white.

**Sydnee:** It is not intersectional. [laughs quietly] At all.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Yeah, that is important to note, that while it is, you know— yes, there are themes of women supporting women, and that was not super common, it is very much white women supporting white women. Not a lot of intersectionality going on, there.

**Sydnee:** No, mm-mm.

**Taylor:** Mm-mm.

**Rileigh:** Um... yeah. Which is a— a running theme, I will say, throughout the movie. A very white movie. But... I mean... still— still tried its best, I guess, for a movie being made in 2001.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean, I think it's the same criticism we level at a lot of the media we talk about from that time period.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Just— yeah, that suffers from a lack of diversity. Um, but, uh— but I did think, like, to that note, there are times where that actually—I don't know if it's intentional or not. But when Elle applies to law school, she makes a video essay. And there is this implication as the all-old-white-man acceptance committee, admissions committee is watching the video, that perhaps they think she's attractive. They don't lean into that too hard, but they do freeze frame on the bikini shot. So, like... it— the question is there, of course.

**Rileigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Which is gross. But... also, like... that kind of thing is gross sometimes, and true. And there are too many— and certainly in 2001— all-white admissions committees. You know? Or all-male admissions committees, or both. I mean, like, all of those things are true. And, like, a commentary on, "Don't you think it's messed up that these are the people who get to decide who gets to go somewhere to school, or get a job?" Or whatever the, you know, committee is supposed to do. Don't you think that's messed up?

That's a very real, important conversation that we should still be having... today, so.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And I would like to note, there— I mean, it— they suggest in that same moment that the reason she gets in is because they find her attractive. That they weren't going to, they watch her video, "Oh, well maybe... let's let her in."

But based off her credentials and her scores, she got an LSAT score of 179, which is one point away from perfect. The highest you can get is a 180. And she had a 4.0 GPA. Um...

**Sydnee:** That's kind of unreal that they give her a 179.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Oh, it's— I mean, it's entirely unrealistic. That is one of the more unrealistic things I have experien— er, I have understood now that I have experienced the LSAT, is her first practice test she gets, like, a... 134, or something like that, I think? And then raises it all the way to a 179 by the time she takes the test. And she does study a lot, but... 45 points, man. That's not...

**Sydnee:** And there— on the admissions committee, somebody says, "She got a 179 on her L-S-A-Ts." Nobody says that, do they?

**Rileigh:** Nobody, no.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I was trying to picture saying [laughs quietly] that a student did really well on their—[laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** M-C-A-T?

**Sydnee:** —M-C-A-Ts. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like... you mean MCAT?

**Rileigh:** No. That is not right, and her getting a 179 is very unrealistic. But I do— I mean, with that score and her GPA— and, I mean, she was president of her sorority, and mentioned all the other things she did within that. I— she probably would've gotten into Harvard on her own. I mean, I don't think it would've been dependent on her looks. So...

**Taylor:** It seems like that's one of those, like, rare, like... total package situations. Where, you know, you have a really smart person who's also incredibly, like, successful and, like, social and, you know, like... whatever. Like, fun activities.

**Sydnee:** And is nice looking, and... yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I mean, that's... yeah. I don't—[through laughter] I don't think that's that wild.

**Sydnee:** Which isn't, like— you're not wrong to say that's also the stereotype, that especially if you're talking about women that other women will hate. Like, that they're— that is a ster— that is a theme. Like, that is a thing that you can talk about. Which is, like, "Oh, I don't like you 'cause you're too perfect." Like... again, not diversity, but still, like, you know, a funny premise for a movie.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And she did all that work on her own. She got the LSAT score up on her own.

**Sydnee:** That is true.

**Raleigh:** And her GPA was— I mean, it was like that before she decided to go to law school, so obviously she's smart.

**Sydnee:** And— and her friends supported her.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Which is nice. Um... I wanna talk about more, like, the... rest of the movie. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** After she gets into law school.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** But before we do that...

**Raleigh:** Let's check the group message.

**Sydnee:** Uh, first of all, I wanna start us out this week, if that's okay. Um...

**Raleigh:** Alright. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [laughs quietly] It's been busy. It's been busy, lately. I feel like— like things are starting to pick up. We're starting to have more things to do, more things on our plate. And, um, less things on our plate when it comes to cooking, 'cause I don't have time!

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know? Sometimes I don't have time to, like, make... dinner. For... my family.

**Rileigh:** Your whole family.

**Sydnee:** The whole family! Um, and so I need somebody to bring it to me. Uh, and that's where DoorDash comes in. Because no matter what it is you need, whatever meal of the day— or maybe you just need, like, something from a local convenience store, like deodorant or something like that. DoorDash has you covered. Um, whatever you want, they can bring it right to your door. They'll leave it right there, contactless delivery, just leave it nicely on your front porch and let you know that they showed up and dropped it all off.

Ordering is super easy. You just open the DoorDash app, you choose whatever you want, and then they bring it to you. And it's... it's the easiest thing ever.

Um, we use DoorDash constantly, uh, especially we have in the last year to support a lot of our local restaurants during times where either they were closed to the public or we, you know, weren't quite ready to go out and eat in a restaurant. You can support them anyway by ordering through DoorDash, and it's been great for that in the past year. And, um, and I don't see that trend for us ending anytime soon, because it's so nice to have your favorite food delivered to your door!

**Rileigh:** It is.

**Sydnee:** So Teylor, if our listeners want to check out DoorDash, what should they do?

**Teylor:** Well, for a limited time, our listeners can get 25% off and zero delivery fees on their first order of \$15 or more, when you download the DoorDash app and enter code "stillbuff." That's 25% off, up to \$10 value, and zero delivery fees on your first order when you download the DoorDash app and enter code "stillbuff." Subject to change, terms apply.

**Rileigh:** So, I don't know about you all, but I know when I leave the house— um, which isn't very often right now, to be fair.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Sure, sure.

**Rileigh:** But when I do, I do like the little pat-down where I, like, check, like, is my phone in my back pocket? Let me look in my purse. Is my wallet in there? Where's my keys? Um, I gotta check and make sure I got everything that I need. But recently I've added one more thing to my essentials list that I check at my little pat down, make sure is right there. Uh, and that's my Birdie.

My Birdie is a personal safety alarm that is easy to carry and simple to use. It comes with a little clip. I clipped it to my keys, so it's right there. I always have it with me, with my wallet and my keys and everything. Um, all you do is pretty much pull the bottom part of it off the top part of it, and it emits a super loud siren and a flashing light, so if you ever feel uncomfortable at any point, you're walking alone at night, maybe someone near you that's making you uncomfortable, maybe you feel threatened. Um, point that at 'em. Super bright, super loud. And it's great. Um, and it's no danger to you, so you can feel confident using it, so it's not like any other personal safety device you might have that you could misuse and hurt yourself, hurt someone else, whatever. Um, not like that. So, I have accidentally pulled it, just to see what would happen. Didn't hurt me. It was loud.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** And it was bright. But I'm fine.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It would work.

**Rileigh:** Yeah! And it comes in fun colors, so you'll actually want to carry it. I have a little pink one that matches my pink lanyard. Um, they have blue, they have black, they have lots of fun colors. So go and buy your Birdie today for a safer tomorrow.

Taylor, if our listeners want to 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](https://shesbirdie.com/buffering), that's shesbirdie, spelled S-H-E-S-B-I-R-D-I-E.com/buffering for 15% off.

**Sydnee:** Uh, so one question I have— you probably don't know the answer to this.

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Okay.

**Taylor:** Oh— okay. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Did they— when they were casting this movie, do you think they were like, "Who do we want for the good love interest?" And they were like, "Paul Rudd."

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And they were like, "Well, we can't just get Paul Rudd again!" [laughs]

**Rileigh:** "We can't do *Clueless* again, guys. C'mon."

**Sydnee:** It'll be too close. We can't get Paul Rudd again. He was even, like, working for a lawyer in that one.

**Taylor:** That's true, yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** No, we— yeah, we can't get Paul Rudd again. Who's like Paul Rudd, but not Paul Rudd?

**Rileigh:** Luke Wilson.

**Taylor:** That's—

**Sydnee:** Is that... [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's— that's how you quantify [through laughter] Luke Wilson! Like Paul Rudd but not Paul Rudd.

**Sydnee:** I feel like in these two movies—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] A tall Paul Rudd.

**Sydnee:** —in these two movies, it is, like— you remember *Clueless*? It's basically Paul Rudd, but it's not. It's Luke Wilson. But basically. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** But basically. No, you're right.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Do you feel like at any point he, like, was on set and looked around and went, "Am I just Paul Rudd?"

**Rileigh:** [laughs] They brought in Paul Rudd as, like, a character consultant. [laughs] And Luke Wilson was like, "Wait a minute! Hold on. I thought I was doing a pretty good job!"

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** "We need you to be more like a— you know, a Paul Rudd kind of character. You know? Sort of like Paul Rudd is, like, as a character, but as Paul Rudd?" [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I mean, the relationship between Elle and Emmett and Paul Rudd's character and Cher— I'm blanking on his name. I can't remember in *Clueless*.

**Sydnee:** Josh.

**Rileigh:** Josh. Uh, it's very similar.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** I mean, the guys are very, like, serious and smart and... no nonsense. But then the girls are, well, blonde. And... enjoy shopping.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** I do think that Luke Wilson's a lot nicer. Paul Rudd was a little punchier.

**Rileigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** Yes, that is very true. And I do think, like, it is interesting. They... somebody must've said, like, "So he works for one of the professors at the law school. He's not a professor at the law school. But he does work for him." Which is pretty darn close. If they start dating in the movie...

**Rileigh:** Mmm, mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** You know? Like... this is not okay. And so it's interesting because, like, they just have that little tag at the end where they're like, "[through laughter] Also they've been dating for two years."

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs] That's it.

**Sydnee:** Like, is this okay if we do it this way? Are we cool? [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah, that's true. And I think— I mean, from what I could tell— and it's very confusing— you're only in law school for three years. And obviously Elle is in her first year, and from what I can tell, Emmett is a 3L, where he's in his third year, his final year. And this is like his internship.

**Sydnee:** Is he?

**Taylor:** Oh, that makes sense.

**Rileigh:** That he is, like, almost like a teaching assistant, like a TA.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um, that he is that for that class for this first year class, 'cause that would be a class that would only be for first years, um, and that he is assisting him in teaching, but also is, like, his intern in his legal practice, which is why he helps out with the case they argue later on.

**Sydnee:** That would make more sense. See, there's the scene where they first meet and she says, "You must be a third year." And he starts to answer, but then Warner walks over and she walks away.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** So, it's not—

**Rileigh:** You're never quite clear.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I— I interpreted it that he wasn't, but—

**Taylor:** 'Cause he's allowed to be her... guardian, I guess? When she takes over as legal counsel though, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** So that—

**Rileigh:** That's true.

**Taylor:** —he has to be a real lawyer to do that, right?



**Rileigh:** You have to be— what'd they say? You have to be bar certified to do that.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** But, I mean, I guess it is— there are some states where you can take the bar before you graduate law school, like, in your final year. Um...

**Sydnee:** Huh.

**Rileigh:** So, I guess theoretically it's possible that he would've taken the bar, like, in his last semester of law school.

**Sydnee:** I guess that's true. I took my boards before I finished. Well, before I finished residency. That's different, though.

**Rileigh:** You only have the three years law school. You don't have to do residency to be a lawyer, you just kind of... learn for three years, then go right into it.

**Sydnee:** Basically what you're saying is, it's harder to be a doctor—

**Rileigh:** Okay! Well, alright.

**Sydnee:** —than to be a lawyer. And that's, I think—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] No, no, no. Okay.

**Sydnee:** —something we can *all* agree on.

**Rileigh:** Ohh-kay.

**Teylor:** I went to art school! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** What kind of residency did you have to do?

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Teylor:** I worked at a coffee shop. That's how it works.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Um... any— that— but I mean, like, I will say, they don't make it about that. Like, you never even seem 'em, like, kiss or anything.

**Rileigh:** No, no. They're— you see them as friends throughout the movie, and he helps her study and everything. Um, and get— I guess get better at law. [laughs quietly] Law school.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Get—[laughs] buy a computer.

**Rileigh:** Buy a computer.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Um— and, uh— which is crazy. She— to me, and I guess this just shows my age, uh, it was crazy to me she didn't have one going in to law school. Because— and I know it was 2001— but everyone else in the classroom pulled out their laptop when the professor started lecturing.

**Sydnee:** And she's established as rich.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. She obviously has money, and she did well enough in school that she got a 4.0, so he cared about her grades in school. So it was kind of crazy to me that she didn't... didn't have a laptop.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Hmm... I don't— well, I mean... in the movie universe, yes. But, like, I mean, I s— I started college in 2004? And I had a desktop in my dorm room.

**Rileigh:** Really.

**Taylor:** It was not common to have laptops. I mean...

**Sydnee:** I guess— you know, that's a really good point. 'Cause, I mean, I started college in 2001.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Is that right? Yes. And—[laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Let me think. And, uh, when I— I didn't have a laptop, but that was part of the scholarship then, is that the scholarship I got—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] You got a laptop.

**Sydnee:** Yes, gave you a laptop that you could use. You'd use for the four years and then buy it at the end if you wanted to keep it, for what it

was worth at that point. Man, that was, like, a giant, heavy Dell. You could not take it anywhere.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** That laptop I had was not a laptop. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I loved— the memory of those beautiful candy-colored Mac products. 'Cause she gets that— that orange or tangerine— I think they were flavors— uh, MacBook. Like... I— I wanted one of those so bad. Those little—

**Sydnee:** Me too!

**Taylor:** Like, the desktop ones were so cute! And they're, like, a—

**Sydnee:** I wanted one of those so— I was the same way. As soon as I saw her in line checking out with that MacBook under her arm I was like, "Man, I wanted one of those so much!"

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I always— I was always so jealous of, like, I have this big, giant, black cube of a laptop. And, like, look how cute those are! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Those little MacBooks. Um, but, I mean, she doesn't have a laptop when she starts school. She comes in with a tiny little— a tiny little heart-shaped pad of paper, right? Or, like, a pink pad, a pink fluffy pen.

**Sydnee:** And a fluffy pen.

**Raleigh:** Um, and her very lawyer-ly outfit, in her big plaid coat and glasses that she does not need. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Okay, but— but... real talk, like, I don't— you know, me personally, not a big fan of pink. But that, like, jacket and tie, and the pink button-up?

**Raleigh:** Oh, yeah.

**Taylor:** That combo? I'd wear it with pants, but [through laughter] I would absolutely wear that! I have always loved that outfit that she wears on her first day.

**Sydnee:** I like it, too.

**Rileigh:** I do love that outfit. Um, and that is the outfit, of course, where we get the iconic scene where she's Warner and is like, "Oh my gosh! I forgot you went here."

And he says, "You go to Harvard?"

And she says, "What, like it's hard?"

Which is just... it's so great.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** 'Cause, I mean, I wasn't that hard for her, I guess. She already had the grades. She studied hard for her LSAT, and that's about it.

**Taylor:** I do think it's interesting that there's not some big switch where— 'cause, you know, it's very clear at the beginning that she goes to law school specifically just to get her boyfriend back, and then she will, like, go back to her life. Like, she's not interested in pursuing lawyering. But it's clear in the movie that by the end she's passionate about it. And, like, I guess that never really comes to a head. It just kind of happens naturally. She gets into it, is passionate about it, and then, like, that becomes her focus.

**Sydnee:** I think— my take on it— 'cause I was wondering— actually, Justin asked me that. When did she switch and decide to actually be a lawyer?

And I said, I think that when the whole party thing happened, and Warner, like, fully rejected her. I think that's when she decided, "I'm just gonna beat him. Like, I'm gonna be good at this to beat him, but not really become a lawyer." I think it was the dog scene.

**Taylor:** Ohh, yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** When she helps her friend get the dog, and she sees how happy she is because she helped her get her dog back from her ex-husband, I think that's what we're supposed to interpret as, like, "Oh. I actually really do enjoy doing this as a job."

**Rileigh:** This thing, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um, I do— and we haven't mentioned it yet, but there is a *Legally Blonde* musical that you can watch the original cast, a pro shot of

it on YouTube, that MTV shot when it first premiered, which is very funny to me. Just that whole— that whole sentence right there.

Um, but there is a song in it that's a tiny little reprise, where instead of her earlier where she sang about love with Warner, now she's singing about law.

**Taylor:** Ahh.

**Riley:** And after the dog scene in it, she's taking about how law— like, you're fighting for the underdog, and it, like, makes her feel really good, and she's doing something to help people. And I think they try to do that more so in the musical and show. Like, that's where... instead of now singing about how much she loves Warner, she's singing about how much she loves what she's doing.

**Sydnee:** That makes sense.

**Riley:** Yeah. And, uh— I guess again, right after he gets engaged. 'Cause in the musical, when you first meet Vivian and Warner they're not engaged yet, whereas in the movie the first time you meet them they are engaged. Um, right?

**Taylor:** Yes, she's already got the ring when they meet in the movie.

**Sydnee:** Yes, yes.

**Riley:** Yeah, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Riley:** I thought so. Um, but you watch them get engaged in the musical, and she's very sad at first. But then they post the internship list, and she was chosen for those internship spots. She's like, "Wow, I actually feel so much better, because I did this thing. And I'm gonna show you what you're missing. And I'm gonna do great things on my own. I'm gonna get a better job than you, and I'm gonna do better things than you." And that's it.

**Taylor:** I do— I love the moment when she turns around from the list and just screams, "Me!" [laughs] Like, there's one—

**Riley:** "Me!" Yes.

[all laughs]

**Riley:** I do love that. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And I have to say, I was kind of impressed. The whole way they play the, like... the sexual harassment scene, you know? It— first of all, like, I almost feel like— I don't know. I haven't read the book, and I don't know that person's experiences. But it almost felt pulled from a real-life experience.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Because it was just so, like, exactly what it was.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Um... the only thing is, any time in a movie like that where a character almost walks in on two people and then, like, ducks away, like Vivian does— like, no you wouldn't. You'd stand there and watch. Come on!

**Rileigh:** You'd stand there and watch.

**Sydnee:** Any of us would. We'd all stand there and watch. Don't pretend like you'd run away before you see the outcome.

**Taylor:** No, no.

**Rileigh:** See, okay, wait. You all can't tell me I'm creepy for wanting to be invisible! That's exactly why I'd wanna be invisible!

**Sydnee:** Not because you'd wanna see, like, nakedness. But, like, because you'd wanna be like, "What's happening?"

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Well, no! No, I just wanna know what's going on!

**Taylor:** No, no. I have seen the exact worst moment of this situation with no context. I will leave now. [laughs] Like, that's... that's—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** And I will build a narrative around it, based on this one moment I have seen.

**Sydnee:** But, like, the whole fallout is, again, I don't know if it was intentional, but she's done nothing wrong, and she's put in this horrible situation. She removes herself from it immediately, but is still blamed for it, and still seen as, you know, the bad person in the situation. Other women immediately, you know, blame her. And she's basically forced to leave law school. I mean, I know she doesn't. But, like, that is— that is

sort of the fallout from that whole thing. Um, I thought it was so, like, yes. I mean, yes, that is what happens, more often than not.

And I even thought, like, the moment in the beauty salon where the other professor who was hard on her in the beginning. I forget her name. But the other professor.

**Rileigh:** I know— yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Like, turns around and is like, "If you let this scare you away, you're not half the lawyer I thought you were," or whatever. Um, but then, like, doesn't do anything? [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** What a—

**Rileigh:** And leaves her on her own.

**Sydnee:** Yeah! And is like, "Stand up to men. Anyway, bye! [laughs] I'm out. My hair's done."

That was also kind of realistic, because, like, unfortunately that's all too often true that, like, the women who are in positions of power, who are tasked with helping you, are so busy trying to hold on to that that all they say is, "Yeah, stand up for yourself. I mean, I'm not gonna be there, but... you go for it, girl!"

**Rileigh:** You do it.

**Taylor:** It seemed like that was clearly pre-Me Too film here. 'Cause it felt like it was just accepted. Like, "Yeah, that guy's kind of a creep but, you know, he works— he works at Harvard." [laughs] So...

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, but I mean, that was kind of a, like... [sighs] to have an ending where if you just take that one little part of the plot, he sexually harasses her, she's about to quit, but instead he gets fired from her job and she gets his job.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Is a pretty cool...

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Like... I mean... I don't know. I...

**Rileigh:** Yeah. No, you're right. And I mean it feels, I will say, in today's context, um, slightly unrealistic to think that based off this one instance he would be fired, um, and she would—

**Sydnee:** Well, I don't know that he loses his job at Harvard.

**Taylor:** No, that's— yeah.

**Rileigh:** I guess you're right. I guess that she would have as much... I don't want to say as much support. But you know what I mean? Like, that ending that way, where he does lose that position in that case, and she takes it, feels like that's probably not what would happen most of the time.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** I think— I think that having the— the defendant be somebody who was, like, sympathetic to her and connected to her, and sort of like her, um, made it plausible in the reality of the movie.

**Rileigh:** Sure, yeah.

**Sydnee:** But I think that the idea that he would continue to work at Harvard, and his career essentially would be untouched— like, he would still have his— he's still a partner at his firm. He still teaches at Harvard. All of that would stay the same. Totally plausible. [laughs quietly] I mean, totally plausible.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But, uh— but, I mean, still. I felt like, well, that was all— that would be kind of cool to see happen in real life, actually. That kind of vindication.

**Rileigh:** And she wins the case for her, which I think the— the whole thing about it that, I mean, she does, based off her knowledge of perm maintenance.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yes.



**Rileigh:** Um... [laughs quietly] which is a great— a great scene. But, um, from the beginning she gets her alibi, Brooke is accused of murdering her husband and won't give anyone an alibi for where she was. She gives it to Elle and says, "But you can't tell anybody."

And Elle doesn't. She doesn't tell her professor. She doesn't tell the other people on the case. Um, but still wins anyways without, like, losing Brooke's trust, which I think is just another way of showing that, like— 'cause at the very, very beginning there's that scene where she's buying a dress and she tells the saleswoman, like, "No, you're trying to trick me. I know this dress. I know how much it's worth and when it's from."

It just shows one of those moments where she is good at being a lawyer, and she has the skills. She's not just there and only capable of getting her boyfriend back. Like, she has the skill. She cares about keeping a client's trust and finding a way to win without compromising that. Um, which is good.

**Taylor:** Well, and there's a— there's a good message there that, you know, we need diversity in these fields, because having somebody that understands their client and— and, you know, comes from, like, a similar background, is important. Once again, it's represented by, like, two— two blonde white ladies, so, like, okay. But, you know. The idea is important. The takeaway is good. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah, no, I mean, I think you're exactly right. Like, and you could make a version of this movie today in 2021 that could be a really cool, you know, movie, a really cool thing around that theme. Um, and that I think would also address the other issue, which— I mean, I knew the plot, and it didn't hit me until I watched it again now, that the moment in the courtroom where— so, the pool boy is lying about having an affair with Ali Larter's character because... I guess he's in on it, is what we're supposed to assume. Like, the daughter who accidentally shot her father is paying him off or something. So, like, he's lying to make it look like she's more guilty.

Anyway, Elle discovers that he's actually gay, and wouldn't have been having an affair with her. And then tells Luke Wilson that, who then uses clever lawyer tricks... [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** ... to— to get him to out himself in the courtroom. And, uh— and the whole scene— like, I mean, if we can accept that he was out and gay in his life, and that wasn't something that he was trying to keep secret except for in this one specific—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] He was just lying in this case, mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, like, because he's lying 'cause he wants to get paid off by the daughter or whatever. That's one thing. But, like... [sighs] especially since it was in 2001, I'm watching thinking, "Ugh! Ugh! Was he just outed?"

**Rileigh:** "Did he just out him?" Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Ugh. Like, it— and I think— I really think it's a scene that, like, I know what you're trying to do here, but I think, again, it could be handled better in today's world. We would know, like— ooh, we— ooh. Okay.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** No, I think you're very right. Um, and I think I— I didn't really think about it until you brought that up, because I guess my watching of it has always— I've just assumed— and, I mean, there's not anything in the movie that tells you this for sure. I've just assumed that he was out in his life as gay, and he was lying in this case to get money, or to do whatever. Um, but I didn't even think about it the other way, which is equally as possible, because there is nothing in the movie that tells you either way.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, I agree.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um, I will say, though, for it to be written again in 2021, Mindy Kaling is currently writing another one. A third one, um, that's coming out in May 2022. And I guess— well, I guess it would be a fourth one. I don't really count *Legally Blondes*, plural.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It was straight to DVD.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] I don't think we should speak of that.

**Sydnee:** Yeah...

**Raleigh:** It was like *Mean Girls 2*. Like, it just went straight to DVD. No one talked about it. We like to pretend it doesn't exist. But there is a second *Legally Blonde* movie, um, *Red, White & Blonde*.

**Sydnee:** I feel like I should watch all these movies, because there's a chance that I like them better than the originals, based on my...

**Taylor:** Oh. Y—

**Sydnee:** ... personal history.

**Taylor:** I—

**Raleigh:** Yes. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Sydnee's favorite of the series is gonna be *Legally Blondes*.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I mean, there's a chance.

**Raleigh:** I've never even seen it actually, to be honest. I've seen the first two. I just— I've heard enough about it for me to know I don't— don't need to watch it. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah. I thought— I watched the trailed and I was like, "No, I— I've done my— I've done my part. I watched the two." I do think that the— we didn't get a lot into the sequel, and I won't go into it. But I do think the first is superior.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Uh, it's a much better written story.

**Raleigh:** It is.

**Taylor:** I think it becomes almost too much caricature in the second one.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I think the story— and well, I mean, I of course would want to see more about all the characters, it was a very good one-and-done kind of story. Like, all of what needed to be done was encapsulated in the story. You see good character arcs for all the people you need to see 'em for. Um, especially at the end, they do— at their law school

graduation they fast forward to the end, and they have little, like, "Where are they now?" little sentences basically about everyone. And I do appreciate that they make a point of saying Warner is alone, and Vivian and Elle are now best friends. Um, that's very good.

**Sydnee:** They do say that Warner can't get a job, though, and that's the only unrealistic part, 'cause let's be honest, Warner definitely ran for GOP senator for his state and won.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean, like, right?

**Taylor:** Or is currently in, like, our representation right now. Many—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I mean, his dad obviously, from what I assume, probably paid for him to get into Harvard.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** So, his dad could've gotten him a job anywhere.

**Sydnee:** Fast forward: he was an integral part of the Trump administration.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And the college admissions scandal.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, was he called out in Operation Varsity Blues?

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. All of that. All of that. We know this guy.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I know thi— I know this guy.

**Sydnee:** We know this guy. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Um, but it is— it is a movie of its time that has some problems that I don't think would exist in its making of today, and maybe they won't, if it's— you know, depending on what kind of story line they go with when they make it again. Um, but it was obviously very formative to my life. [laughs quietly] Because now I am going to law school, partially inspired by Elle Woods.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Well, I think it's like any media. You can take the good parts.

**Rileigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** That's okay. You're allowed to do that, as a human. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And I think that's a good way of kind of thinking about things. Some— some media can be judged as ultimately, this is— it has bad ideas, it put ba— it reinforces bad stereotypes, it's possibly harmful. I would— I think *Legally Blonde* is a long way from harmful. And it clearly has— I mean, I think it's pretty cool that— you're saying there's a generation of young women that are like, "No, I wanna be like Elle Woods." I mean...

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** To make a— a— a movie that appeals to teens about pursuing law is pretty cool. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And also tells me I don't have to become boring and serious like they say all law students are to be a law student.

**Taylor:** No.

**Rileigh:** I can have my— my—[laughs quietly] my guinea pig. [laughs] And wear pink if I want to.

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, just get that— get that outfit for your first day of law school, please! That amazing turquoise—

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** —that, what? Lounge jacket? I don't know what that is. It's so good. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't know what it is either. It's like a riff on, like, a robe, like, that a judge would wear, but also just a robe.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And then also, I don't know, like, a blazer, but not. It's... it's a thing.

**Raleigh:** I need that outfit, and I need a bag that I carry Ruth in to every class I go to. [laughs quietly] That's it. That's all I need to succeed in law school.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** But thank you all for watching this movie with me.

**Sydnee:** No, it was fun. I enjoyed it.

**Raleigh:** I enjoyed getting to rewatch it.

**Taylor:** Same.

**Raleigh:** So, thank you. What's next?

**Sydnee:** Uh, so next week, um, something a little different, I would say. I wanna talk about *Calvin and Hobbes*.

**Raleigh:** Ooh.

**Taylor:** Oh, nice!

**Sydnee:** You don't have to read any specific— I mean, I assume you've both—

**Raleigh:** Read all of them. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I have the whole thing.

**Raleigh:** I know. [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's right. You've got that, like, the bible tome of [through laughter] *Calvin and Hobbes*.

**Sydnee:** I do. I do not require that. That would— that would be a lot.

**Rileigh:** Good, thank you.

**Sydnee:** Interact in some way with some *Calvin*— to remind you of, like, what it is. That's all I ask. You don't need to read a lot. I think you've both read it.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Um... alright. Well, thank you both. Rileigh, thank you.

**Rileigh:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** That was great.

**Rileigh:** I'm glad.

**Sydnee:** Uh, one more time, Taylor, have a great Trans Day of Visibility.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Say hi to Big Bird for me.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I will. Should be here any time now. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Fly down here after you get your superpowers.

**Rileigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** Fingers crossed.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** You're, like, half-vaccinated. You're almost there.

**Taylor:** Right? [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, once you are, fly down here.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** Uh, thank you to everybody listening. You should, um, go Maximumfun.org if there's other podcasts that you think you might like, they're there. That was weird, the way I said that.

**Taylor:** There are— there are podcasts there. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** There are podcasts there, and you'll like them.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I need to eat lunch. Um—

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** The—[laughs] do that, then. And tweet at us @stillbuff.

**Rileigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** That also is a thing that people do. Or you could email us.  
[laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Maybe it's not that trans people get superpowers today. Maybe cis people are just weakened. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's very possible.

**Sydnee:** It's— I feel like that right now! I don't know what's happening.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I think my blood sugar's dipping in. Are you taking it?

**Taylor:** I— yes, I am absorbing your blood sugar. That would be a horrible superpower!

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] That would be a horri—

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Thi— this is almost worse than the Benedict Cumberbatch one.

**Taylor:** No— these— yes, I want these— these superheroes all on a team together.

[all laugh]



**Sydnee:** The creepiest superpowers. Um, our email is stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, so there was the end of that sentence.

**Taylor:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Thank you to The Nouvellas—

**Rileigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** —for our theme song—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[theme music plays in the background]

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

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

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

**Rileigh:** I am still buffering...

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

**Rileigh:** Hey, that was pretty good!

**Sydnee:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** Pretty in sync.

**Sydnee:** There we go! Aw, no, maybe that's the superpower you got.

**Taylor:** That's it?! I can finally do the sign off? Aw, come on, Big Bird!

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** You can speak in sync with anyone at will. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's it.

**Sydnee:** That's it.

**Taylor:** Well, yeah, I was hoping for flight, but that's cool, too. Thanks.

[theme music ends]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Thank you, Big Bird!

**Rileigh:** Thanks, Big Bird.

[music plays]

**John:** Hey, it's John Moe. And look, these are challenging times for our mental and emotional health. I get it. That's why I'm so excited for my new podcast, *Depresh Mode*. We're talking depression, anxiety, trauma, stress, the kinds of things that are just super common, but don't get talked about nearly enough. Conversations that are illuminating, honest, and sometimes pretty funny. With folks like Kelsey Darragh, Open Mike Eagle, and Patton Oswalt.

**Patton Oswalt:** Humphrey Bogart was never in therapy. And my dad said, "Yeah, but he smoked a carton of cigarettes a day, so he *was* in therapy."

**John:** Plus psychiatrists, psychologists, and all kinds of folks. On *Depresh Mode*, we're working together; learning, helping each other out. We're a team! Join our team.

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[chord]

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