

## Still Buffering 258: Calvin and Hobbes

Published April 11, 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:** So... what, uh— anything new going on with you all lately? Any, um... new interests or activities—

**Raleigh:** Sydnee, we know where this is going. You don't have to pretend like it's about all of us. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Any new forms of media with which you've recently decided to engage?

**Taylor:** Gee, I don't know, Syd. What about you?

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I don't know.

**Sydnee:** I'm on TikTok!

**Raleigh:** Oh, there it is.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Sydnee has taken over TikTok.

**Sydnee:** I figured it out!

**Raleigh:** Well, okay.

**Sydnee:** It took a while.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] You figured it out in the sense that you have created a 60 second video format [through laughter] that you have taken to TikTok.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. They can only be 60 seconds long. I had to figure that part out.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Sydnee:** My first one I made, uh, I didn't post it 'cause then I was like, "Well, why's it keep cutting off? [beat] Oh."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's why. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Oh." Didn't know that part. But that's better, really.

**Raleigh:** What is the format of all of your TikToks [through laughter] so far?

**Sydnee:** [laughs] So... I do this thing, um, where I will read articles about TV shows that I don't watch.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Um—

**Raleigh:** You have done this thing for a while.

**Sydnee:** Yes. And, uh, I— sometimes I'll start telling Justin about these articles about these TV shows that he does not watch either.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] And, um, I— sometimes just as a joke, sometimes it's just, like, legitimately like, "You won't believe what they're doing on *This is Us*."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And he's like, "We don't watch *This is Us*."

And I'm like, "Well, but guess what they're doing."

[laughs] Um, especially, like, spoiler ones. I love the idea of spoiling a TV show I've never watched for myself. I don't know what's wrong with me. It just— anyway. So, now I— now I make TikToks where I tell Justin about these articles.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I like that, like, you know, you— let's see. So you've got a podcast where you talk about media that you have watched. [laughs] And then you have a TikTok where you talk about media that you haven't watched. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. That's it.

**Raleigh:** That's it.

**Taylor:** And you're a doctor. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Two of your jobs. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I, uh— it's very— the— it's— I think it's a good... like, con—

**Raleigh:** [wheezes quietly]

**Sydnee:** —condensed version of what a lot of the interactions that Justin and I have are like, where I am urgently telling him about something that he has [through laughter] very little interest in.

**Raleigh:** Well, it probably helps him, right? 'Cause it puts a 60 second limit on how long you can tell him [through laughter] about these articles.

**Taylor:** That's a good deal. It's a win-win. Uh, and also in real life are you usually about two inches away from his face? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs loudly]

**Sydnee:** Well...

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Right up in his face.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's the best part, I think.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know, it's funny. Um... yeah, I— well, no, probably not typically. But I'm not good at judging... I am not from the selfie generation. [laughs] So it's hard for me to tell how close I need to be to, like, hold the phone and get us both into the shot at the same... time.

**Raleigh:** Sydnee, you can see yourself. You can see yourself.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, but I— like, I'm constantly worried I'm gonna lose one of us so I try to stay super tight in there so that that way...

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm? [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** But it's— now it's become the thing, so now I guess—

**Raleigh:** Now you have to keep doing it.

**Sydnee:** —it's the thing. [beat] Um... I mean, Justin doesn't mind. If anyone is concerned, like, he doesn't mind that I'm all up in his face. We're married. It's o— he— he likes—

**Raleigh:** It's fine.

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter]—he— he likes me to be all up in his face.

**Taylor:** [laughs] I just can't believe that you have 30— like, 34000 people following you on TikTok! [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I didn't— I didn't know if anybody would like it. It tickled me, and, uh... Justin gets a kick out of it, I think. I do think he legitimately is annoyed by it s— like, sometimes. But overall... you know.

**Raleigh:** I do like all the comments that are like, "It's the perfect mix of 'I love you so much and also I can't stand what you're doing to me right now,' but please don't stop doing it to him." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It was— it's really the— early in our relationship, um, one of the first times we had a slumber party, um...

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Sure, yeah. That's—

**Sydnee:** That's what the kids call it.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** Uh... he was trying to fall asleep and I was laying there thinking about Crystal Pepsi.

**Raleigh:** [wheeze-laughs]

**Sydnee:** And so I said, "Hey, Justin. Do you remember Crystal Pepsi?" And in my head, I had been having this whole conversation with myself about Crystal Pepsi.

**Raleigh:** So it made sense.

**Sydnee:** And I don't know that I had realized how long I'd been silent.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Before, out of the blue, in the dark, to him, I said, "Hey Justin, do you remember Crystal Pepsi?"

**Taylor:** And that is the moment he thought to himself, "I'm gonna marry this woman."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Um... yeah.

**Raleigh:** That's very good.

**Sydnee:** He— yeah. He has to remind me sometimes, like, "I didn't hear the rest of that. Whatever just happened in your head that led to that falling out of your mouth. I didn't get— I wasn't in on it, so you're gonna have to rewind and tell me that part, too."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** How do you feel that TikTok now has come to the consensus— and this doesn't affect Taylor and I, 'cause we're Smirls, but now Taylor— er, now TikTok says that you're the funniest McElroy.

**Sydnee:** Um...

**Taylor:** Ooh.

**Raleigh:** It's been decided in all the comments.

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Raleigh:** That's what— it's the— it's a running theme.

**Sydnee:** Oh, I don't know that I can... I don't— I mean, there's Charlie, so.

**Raleigh:** Well, that was—

**Taylor:** Oh, that's— that's true, actually.

**Rileigh:** I did see a few comments where someone said, "I raise you Charlie." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** So you are right. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I mean, Cooper's right on her heels.

**Taylor:** I'm afraid of the power struggle that is going to engulf the entire world that will take place between your two children.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, it's really true.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And Cooper has the added element of she knows how to get in your head, in a way. Like, Charlie's— Charlie's much, um... sweeter. [laughs quietly] Cooper's spicier. Uh, yesterday she got mad at me because I wouldn't let her have another gumball. She calls 'em gumbles.

**Rileigh:** That's very good. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And she just wants gumbles, more gumbles. And I'm like, "You just eat them and swallow them, and I can't let you have another one right now. It's dinner time."

And she looked at me and said— you know she loves Jack Skellington and Sally. Those are her— she has those two stuffies. That's what she sleeps with. That's my kid. And she said, "Jackie and Sally say mean things about you."

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Oh-ho-ho no!

**Rileigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** And I said—

**Rileigh:** Whoa.

**Sydnee:** "[taken aback] What?"

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** Uh-oh.

**Sydnee:** I don't like *this*!

**Rileigh:** What do they say about you?

**Sydnee:** Uh, that I— that they are—

**Taylor:** Give me a gumble and I'll tell you.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** They are going to trap me and put me in jail.

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Rileigh:** [shocked laughter]

**Sydnee:** I don't like that her stuffies—

**Rileigh:** I don't like that!

**Sydnee:** —are mean about me and wanna put me in jail, and that she's three and she told me that. It's all very upsetting.

**Rileigh:** It also says a lot about them that that's what her stuffies tell her, and those are the stuffies she sleeps with, and when you look at Charlie's bed it's just, like, a rainbow unicorn squishmallow, and her flamingo, and another unicorn.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It's very— they're very different. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah I, uh— I really enjoyed shopping for Cooper's most recent birthday 'cause it was like, "Here's a chupacabra... action figure. And Jack Skellington... [laughs] uh, chia pet. Is the things that I can buy you."

**Sydnee:** She loves these things. The chupacabra was the pilot of the pretend plane we were on yesterday.

**Taylor:** Wow. They are— they are excellent in flight.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Surprisingly—

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

**Sydnee:** —we got to our destination safe and sound.

**Raleigh:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. I know. I was shocked. I didn't think... [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I didn't think the focus would be on flight, but more on goats, but no.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Um, so... [laughs] speaking of pretend... hey, how about that?

**Raleigh:** Okay. That was good.

**Sydnee:** Speaking of playing pretend, uh, I— this week, I wanted us to talk about *Calvin and Hobbes*.

**Raleigh:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** So thank you both for— I assume you've both read some, at least, *Calvin and Hobbes*.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was— I've read that it's been called, like, the greatest— or the last great newspaper comic, or something like that. Something to that effect. Acknowledging how great it was, and that it was in the newspaper, in the comics. Um, it was for a long time the only one that I would read when it was in the newspaper. Just open it, straight to that.

**Raleigh:** Didn't, uh— didn't get into *Dilbert*? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** Never got into *Dilbert*. You know that— have you ever checked out, by the way, on a side note, like, *The Lockhorns* are still at it.

**Raleigh:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]



**Taylor:** What about, uh—

**Sydnee:** Did you know that?

**Taylor:** What about the, uh, *Marmaduke*? That big dog? And every— every comic strip was, "It's a big dog's in a place a big dog shouldn't be." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** He's a dog, but he's acting like a human!

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Aw, man.

**Sydnee:** Now, I don't know if Mar— you know, is *Marmaduke*— he's probably still up in there. Um, I just noticed that *The Lockhorns* were still at it, and I was like, "After all these years."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't know. It's— see, a lot of those comics, like, you know, I... I don't like to judge other comic artists' work, uh, negatively. But you look at 'em like, "Man, you got a lifetime gig. How? [laughs] How is this forever?"

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Justin used to joke about, um, 'cause he used to work for a couple different local newspapers, that one of his editors told him that was the one thing you could never eliminate from a local newspaper is— like, to try to get rid of one of the comic strips, like to replace it or something, or update it. He said because I guarantee you there will be, like, five people who will write you and call nonstop to angrily inform you [laughs] that—

**Raleigh:** *Marmaduke* wasn't there!

**Sydnee:** That— yes, that that was their favorite thing, and you've ruined their Sunday. [laughs] And they need it back. And every comic strip has maybe a small but incredibly vocal devoted following.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And, uh— and you just can't take any of 'em away.

**Taylor:** Gotta be doing something right, I guess.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I mean, for the longest time our dad had a *Dilbert* strip taped to the door of his office.

**Sydnee:** He didn't know. That's what I try— he didn't know what he was doing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I know.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Um... so *Calvin and Hobbes* I knew was in the paper, and I probably saw in the paper, but I was one of those kids, I had all the books.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** The big, like, nice glossy collections of *Calvin and Hobbes*, um, which existed by the time I was buying them because it came out in 1985. Bill Watterson first started publishing it in '85, and then it ran to '95. It feels like longer.

**Raleigh:** A clean ten years. It does. There are lots of 'em.

**Sydnee:** There are so many. And, I mean, in part, like, I own... all of it, so of course it feels like a lot. [laughs quietly]

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

**Sydnee:** You can buy the entire collection. It's, like, two big, giant, hard-backed, heavy tomes of... *Calvin and Hobbes*, if you so choose.

**Raleigh:** And be like Sydnee.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Um, but man, that was my favorite thing to do when I was younger, is we would go to the bookstore at the mall, first Walden Books, and then Borders, when Walden Books closed, and buy another *Calvin and Hobbes* book.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Um, and hope that I hadn't already read too many of the strips inside.

**Raleigh:** But you would still read them.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Even if you had, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Over and over. They were very comforting. Um, I always wanted a— you know what's weird? Well, no, I guess it's not weird. So, one of the things about—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —now that I think about it, uh... I loved *Calvin and Hobbes* so much, and I know I wasn't alone. I know a lot of other kids did, too, have this affection for that comic strip about— if you haven't read it, which hasn't everybody? But if you haven't read it, it's about a little boy, Calvin. He's six. And he has a stuffed tiger named Hobbes, except when they're alone he's not stuffed, he's a live tiger named Hobbes. But, like, a nice one. I know I said live tiger, and that could sound scary.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Don't worry, this isn't a comic strip about a six-year-old boy constantly being in fear of a real-life tiger.

**Sydnee:** No.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** No, they're friends, and they have fun together. And then when other people are around, he's a stuffed tiger again, and that's sort of the whole thing. Um, and it's, uh, good because— I mean, it's funny. It's clever. But it's also about... life, and growing up, and change, and it's very philosophical.

Um... it was— it's weird that it's for kids, but so often there are, like, jokes and things in it that are not, that are obviously gonna be— that are not gonna land with a kid, you know? They're obviously for the grownups who are reading it. Um, but famously Bill Watterson didn't want to merchandise... his creation.

**Raleigh:** Interesting.

**Sydnee:** He didn't want a bunch of, like, Calvin stuffies and whatnot. So I was thinking, like, it's weird I never had a Hobbes, 'cause I loved Hobbes, so much, but I guess it's not weird, 'cause you couldn't— you couldn't buy a Hobbes.

**Raleigh:** Um, why did he not want to?

**Sydnee:** He just kind of— he wanted to do his art for doing it. Like, he wanted to make his thing, and put it out into the world, and not, like,

commercialize it and put a price tag on everything, uh, and cheapen it to some extent, I think. He just kind of wanted to— 'cause he also doesn't— like, he didn't want to talk to people, he didn't want to be interviewed. He didn't want to be famous. He wanted to do his thing, put it out into the world, and go back and do more of his thing.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Um... and all the noise around it was not his— was not his bag.

**Rileigh:** I can understand that.

**Sydnee:** Teylor, is that— do you feel— does that ki— like—

**Teylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —you're a comics artist as well.

**Teylor:** Uh, well, I feel like— I mean, even in school, Bill Watterson was very revered as sort of an artists' artist. You know, that he did have such a commitment to his work, and not cheapening it by selling things. I think that— that was a— everybody respected the way that he treated his work.

And, I mean, I do, you know, I think that merchandising is something you almost have to do, these days. It's so hard to make a living as an artist. But the fact that he didn't is a testament to just how, you know, masterful he was.

And, I mean, it's a— on the surface, it's a goofily drawn comic, but if you really look at the ink work that he's doing it's, like... like, that's just brushwork that he just whips out. Like, I don't think he uses pencil line. He just does that. And it's just... that's so amazing. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I mean, I— yeah, without knowing the, kind of the, what goes into that sort of artwork, I mean, I always thought, especially when Calvin is pretending to be one of the other characters, like Spaceman Spiff and stuff, that some of the art there is just really— it's so detailed and colorful and beautiful, and... expressive. Um... and so different than the black and white strips of, you know, the other comics.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I also— I always appreciated that they're so small. They're so short. Like, each individual one.

**Teylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** But they're still, like— you still get a full, like, story. I just feel like that takes a lot of, like, forethought going in, that it's— I mean, it's cute and it's funny, but also, like, there are— like you said, like, jokes that are for adults, or commentary on life, and all that kind of stuff. But they're so short! But he gets all that in there in just a few panels. I think that's really... that's really cool.

**Taylor:** That is true. And it's not the same format as a lot of Sunday comics where there's, like, a weird setup that the point is to deliver a punchline. These aren't really setup, punchline kind of comics, you know? They kind of— some of them have jokes, but some of them are just sort of a... a four-panel sort of reflection on something, or just an odd little back and forth, you know? Like— and I like that. It's a very specific comedic timing to *Calvin and Hobbes*.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** It really is. There was one on the comedy end that always used to make me laugh out loud, um, and it was Calvin— and you're in Calvin's world most of the time, and so what he is seeing and experiencing in his imagination is what you are seeing and experiencing. And in his imagination, he's suddenly become invisible. But his clothes are not invisible. So he removes his clothes.

And what you see are, like, the clothes floating in midair and then being removed, and so now he is invisible and he can move about the house undetected. And the punchline of the strip is his mom walks into the scene and finds a little naked Calvin reaching into a cookie jar and looking at her surprised, like, "Why can you see me?"

And it was just such a perfect little— because when his mom enters, now we're back out of his imagination and we're into the real world. But it was just— the way that it hits always made me laugh.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** The idea of your kid thinking that they're invisible, and then trying to get cookies without you knowing, and you're standing there looking at them naked going, "What are you *doing*? [laughs quietly] Like, what— why do you think you can get a cookie right now, and also, are you naked?"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "What is happening" Everything about it just always— I don't know. Even as a kid.

**Raleigh:** That's good.

**Sydnee:** Like, as a parent it's funny, but as a kid it just— every time I would see that strip it would just make me laugh.

**Raleigh:** Well, 'cause he's nakey!

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Look at how silly. It's pretty funny.

**Sydnee:** It was very silly.

**Taylor:** It was like, in a— in one of the books that I got to prepare for this, there's a foreword, and they talk about how the charm of *Calvin and Hobbes* is that so many people that write, like, "Oh, what a wacky little kid!" kind of comics just make these little, like, sarcastic adults, you know?

But that *Calvin and Hobbes* truly does capture, like, just the weird randomness of children. Like, I mean, you— Syd, you know. Like, your kids make up weird stuff and do weird things, you know? And it's like, there's no—

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** —there's no logic to it. There's— it's, you know, it's something different and new every day, and that definitely is, you know, in *Calvin and Hobbes*. It's, like, it... feels like a very real child's imagination.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's so true. One of the things I've referenced a lot is, um, Calvinball. So in the strips, um, *Calvin and Hobbes* play a sport that he made up called Calvinball, and the whole joke is that Calvinball has increasingly, uh, complex [laughs] and intricate rules, um, that change and are added to, and, like, he's— because he's making it all up.

Uh, and I've always thought of that as, like, very clear a stage of childhood development, the concrete stage of development, when you need to make a lot of rules for things. And that you see kids go through those, where, like... oh my gosh. Charlie'll want us to do something, and before we play the game or engage in the imaginary world, she has, like, this whole list of things that are the rules, and then we'll do this, and then we'll do— and then you'll say this, and then this is the other thing that has to happen, and also this is happening.

And, like, and it's a very structured imaginary experience. [laughs] And that's a normal stage of childhood development, is this, like, "I love to

make rules and put walls around my world, 'cause I'm just now understanding that that's kind of how the world works, are with these structures within it, and I can make them."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And, um, it's just so— it's so perfect. And I'll say that all the time. Like, "Well, this is just the Calvinball stage of development. That's just what's happening right now. It's normal. It's fine." [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Charlie has gotten mad at me many times when I have been playing Barbies with her, or dolls or whatever, [holding back laughter] and I'm not saying exactly what she wants me to say in response.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** It's like, well, I'm so sorry I did not know the rules going into this. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes, I have— and Cooper is entering that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I— they both— that is— I don't know. And Calvinball, I guess you can use it the other way and say this game is total Calvinball, which means we're just making it up as we go along.

**Raleigh:** That is really interesting though, because that seems to reflect, like, a genuine, real stage of, like— like you said, child development, but he put that in a comic. You wouldn't— you wouldn't know that unless you were a parent, or a doctor, or... I don't know. I just think that's interesting.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, it's— it's just, it's a very insightful, like, way of— yes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes. And if you are— if you remember being a kid, you've been there, and if you are around kids, you see it. And it's also hilarious.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Calvinball is always hilarious.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Um... that was always one of my favorites. And the other one of my favorite tropes was the transmogrifier.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Which is a word I have now taught Charlie to—[laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** I thought you had, because I've heard her use that before.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** The idea of getting in a box and coming out as something different. Um... which is another thing kids love to do constantly. I don't—I don't think I remember that from being a kid, but, um, my kids turn into your guinea pig all the time.

**Raleigh:** [bursts into laughter] Oh, no!

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** That— well... that's true.

**Sydnee:** Just, like, out of nowhere. Like, Cooper'll just be sitting there and all of a sudden she'll get on all fours and go, "[high pitched] Wee! Wee! Wee!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And come over to me and, like, nuzzle me. And I'm like, "Are you— are you Ruth?"

"[high pitched] Yes."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Then Ruth says yes, and then I'm like, "Okay."

**Raleigh:** Okay. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And then she'll go, "[high pitched] Carrot!"

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** Ruth does love carrots. She's got her down pat.

**Taylor:** Yeah. And that's an excellent Ruth.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]



**Raleigh:** That's a 10 out of 10 Ruth.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, wait till you see it.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Yeah?

**Sydnee:** It's a really good— listen. [laughs quietly] It's a great Ruth.

**Taylor:** Well, the last time I saw them they were both zombies, uh, when I walked in the room. And that was— that was actually terrifying. They both— they're spookily good zombies. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** They do.

**Raleigh:** Cooper especially, 'cause her voice.

**Taylor:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I don't understand how her voice gets to that point. She's so small, and it's so deep and so gravely, and so loud. [laughs] I don't understand.

**Sydnee:** The volume is truly impressive.

**Raleigh:** The volume.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Uh, I want to talk more about what we all, I think, love about *Calvin and Hobbes*. But before we do that...

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

**Sydnee:** Uh, first of all this week, I want to ask you both, are you looking to upgrade your self-care routine?

**Taylor:** Always.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Who isn't, these days, right? Always looking to take a little better care of yourself, feel a little bit better. Um, well, Native has you covered, because they care about what's under there. And under there, I mean under your arms.

**Raleigh:** In your pits.

**Sydnee:** In your pits.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Um, that's why their deodorant's ingredients list includes things like coconut oil and Shea butter, stuff that— you know what that is. You've heard of that, and you know it's gonna feel good in your armpits. Uh, not only feel good, it's gonna smell good! Uh, they have over ten scents that you can choose from. They've got classic ones like the coconut that I love so much, um, but also seasonal— I was gonna say flavors, but that's not the right word here. Scents. Seasonal scents.

**Raleigh:** You're not supposed to eat it. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Please don't eat this. Put Native deodorant under your arms. It will feel good. It will smell good. Um, and none of their products are tested on animals, and almost everything is vegan, so you can also feel good in your heart. Not just in your pits, but in your heart.

[all laugh quietly]

**Sydnee:** About Native deodorant. So if our—[laughs quietly] if our listeners want to check out Native deodorant, what should they do, Tey?

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

**Raleigh:** So, Syd talked about what's under her pits. I wanna tell you about what's under my shoes.

**Sydnee:** Ooh!

**Raleigh:** That's my socks.

**Taylor:** Ah.

**Raleigh:** Um, and I wear Bombas when I wear socks, because they're dedicated to making the most comfortable socks in the history of feet!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** In the history of feet!

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** Which is a long and storied history.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's, like, always, right? Like, even animals have feet. That's, like, always.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. A lot of things have feet.

**Raleigh:** A lot of things have feet! Tables even have feet, right? Like, legs and feet?

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** But don't put your Bombas on *them*. Put 'em on *your* feet.

**Raleigh:** Well, put 'em your feet. But I'm just saying, feets have— feets have—

**Sydnee:** Your human ones.

**Raleigh:** —feets have been [through laughter] around for a long time!

**Taylor:** Think about how many feet are around you at any given moment. A lot.

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** [sighs] Bombas has rethought every little detail of the socks we wear to make them way more comfortable which, I don't know about you all, but when I'm, I don't know, going for a run, going for a workout, I know I'm gonna be on my feet for a long time, I need to wear comfortable socks, 'cause it really makes a difference about whether your shoes feel comfy or not.

**Sydnee:** Sure.

**Raleigh:** But these socks do more than keep your feet cozy, because for every pair of socks you purchase, Bombas donates a pair to someone in need, so the generosity of Bombas customers has allowed them to donate over 40 million pairs of socks and counting through their nationwide network of 3000 plus giving partners.

**Sydnee:** So you can feel good in your feet and in your heart.

**Raleigh:** And in your heart! Just— just like the— just like the last one!

**Sydnee:** This is the new thing I'm working on.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** It's good. It's good.

**Sydnee:** Thanks.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] And the impact is more powerful than ever. To those experiencing homelessness, these socks represent the dignity of putting on clean clothes, a small comfort that's especially important right now. So, you know, your feet feel good and you're making sure someone else feels good about themselves, and you're doing— you're doing good, helping others.

So, Tey, if our listeners want to check out Bombas, what should they do?

**Taylor:** Well, you give a pair when you buy a pair and get 20% off your first purchase at [bombas.com/buffering](https://bombas.com/buffering). That's [bombas.com/buffering](https://bombas.com/buffering) for 20% off your first purchase. [Bombas.com/buffering](https://bombas.com/buffering).

**Sydnee:** So, um... I was trying to think of some of my favorite, like, *Calvin and Hobbes*, and why— and by the way, I should say, um— well, 'cause we touched on the merchandising thing and how that just wasn't a thing, and it has occurred to me that, like, you can read about the very few licensed actual, like, legitimate *Calvin and Hobbes* products that were ever made, and there weren't a lot. Um, I owned a t-shirt that I am now realizing must have been an unlicensed t-shirt.

**Raleigh:** [gasps]

**Taylor:** I was—

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Taylor:** I was thinking about that last week when you mentioned that. I'm like, "Oh, I don't think he ever gave t-shirt licenses."

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I feel— I think there was, like, one very specific t-shirt that was issued for, like, a specific event or something, but that was it. No, this would not have been that t-shirt. [laughs] Um... [laughs]

**Raleigh:** What was your t-shirt? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It was *Calvin and Hobbes* laying in the grass under a tree, looking up at the sky, and it said, "People say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one."

Which of course [through laughter] is not a quote from...

**Raleigh:** [sarcastically] It's not?!

**Taylor:** That is—

**Sydnee:** ... *Calvin and Hobbes*.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Did— now I'm interested to know if these— if this t-shirt company had licensing from *Calvin and Hobbes*, [through laughter] and did they have licensing to use Beatles lyrics on their shirt.

**Taylor:** Hmm...

**Sydnee:** Probably not!

**Raleigh:** With *Calvin and Hobbes*.

**Sydnee:** But here's what's weird. I feel like Mom got it at, like, Hot Topic or something, but that can't be right, right?

**Taylor:** I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Well...

**Sydnee:** I mean, this was pre-internet, like, in terms of— not pre-internet, but you know what I mean. In terms of ordering shirts, there's no way Mom got this off the internet.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She would've bought it in a store.

**Taylor:** Well, but, I mean, that's— think about all of those— I think the most offensive copyright infringement of *Calvin and Hobbes* are those stupid little truck stickers with Calvin peeing on random things.

**Raleigh:** Yes! Oh my gosh.

**Taylor:** Like, those have— those were around in the 90's, and those were definitely— those were definitely not licensed, but those were definitely available in stores.

**Sydnee:** I guess that's true. I guess Bill Watterson has talked about that, like, that he just could not have predicted how popular it would be to have Calvin peeing on a Ford logo.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** How could he have ever foreseen...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** ... that that's what— that's what the people want!

**Raleigh:** That's fair! [laughs]

**Taylor:** What— how offensive. Like, "Here is my character that I, you know, drew so lovingly and nuanced about childhood, and just millions of people have them on the back of their trucks peeing on things." Bummer.

**Sydnee:** It is unfortunate. And it was not the spirit of Calvin. Calvin wouldn't be the kid who would go pee on your truck.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** I mean, he got into mischief, but not that kind of...

**Raleigh:** Well, it's a— that's just some mischief.

**Sydnee:** It wasn't mean spirited.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** I think peeing on your truck is mean spirited.

**Raleigh:** What if they didn't know?

[beat]

**Sydnee:** Why did you—

**Taylor:** Why did you say that so sneakily? [laughs] "[low voice] What if they didn't know?"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "What if nobody knows?"

**Raleigh:** I'm just curious.

**Sydnee:** I have so many questions about this. One: why are you defending this? Two: what— what do you mean, what if they didn't know? And three: like, why did you do it? [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Okay, I didn't. I am just saying, when I get into my car on a regular basis I don't, like, go around it and sniff and make sure there's not, like, any pee anywhere or anything. I just get in! I'm just saying, like, if Calvin were— I'm just saying, I don't— [stammers]— he's just a little mischievous, you know? Maybe he peed on someone's truck tire, and they would never know.

**Sydnee:** If pee falls on a truck and there's no one around to hear it...

**Rileigh:** [laughs loudly]

**Taylor:** Does it make a sound?

**Rileigh:** Did it ever happen? [sniffs] [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Does it even count? I don't know.

**Taylor:** I don't know. Uh...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** These are questions that *Calvin and Hobbes* would've sought to answer, though, I feel like.

**Rileigh:** [laughs weakly]

**Sydnee:** Very philosophical.

**Rileigh:** [sighs] Oh, man. [laughs] I have not peed on any trucks. I would like to make that very clear.

**Taylor:** You know who makes a statement like that? Someone that's peed on a lot of trucks. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Someone who's peed on a truck.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Yep. Yeah.

**Rileigh:** [quietly] Okay.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I didn't know that— I didn't know when we talked about peeing on trucks that you'd come strongly in the pro column. Like... [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** It just—

**Sydnee:** "I am here in defense of... [laughs]

**Taylor:** Just a— just a— just a little bit of mischief. Oh!

**Raleigh:** Just a— it's just a little bit!

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I don't know. It just—

**Raleigh:** I'm just saying, I don't think it's mean! I'm just— it's a little bit of...

**Sydnee:** I— see, this feels— that feels too directed for Calvin. Calvin was more like... you know. Chaos. Just, like, thing— Cal— it's that—

**Raleigh:** I would say that's chaotic! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, it's that thing that kid— like, kids have that thing where they just happen. They just keep happening over and over in the world, and it's without a lot of direction, necessarily. Like, um... like when it— like the— like the strip where he's hammering nails into the coffee table.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** See, that's one of my favorite ones, 'cause it's just— his mom comes in the room and says, "What are you doing?"

And he's, "What does it look like?" Like, obviously! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean—

**Raleigh:** "You can see me doing it." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And, like, you know I've been that parent. Like, looking at your kid going, "Why? Why?" And you know— don't even bother to ask, 'cause they're just gonna look at you like, "I don't know. I'm six. I don't know."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Why do I do anything?"



**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um, but that's the energy of Calvin, I feel like. You know?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I— one of my favorites of the energy of Calvin is when he has to do— I love when they would do some of the extended stories, like in the books, the extended strips that would, you know, carry on a narrative. Um, the one where he had to do a report for school on bats.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And he forgot to do it until he was on his way to school, and he, like, draws a bat out of the Batman logo to present, and he's trying to find out facts about bugs, and he asks— er, about bats, and he asks Susie on the bus, and she won't tell him, and he's like, "They're bugs, right? Aren't bats bugs?"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And she's like, "No." And that's, like, the first thing he says. He gets up in front of the class and he's like, "Out of the night sky, these leathery bugs—"

And everybody's like, "Bats aren't bugs!"

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** I love— there's an exchange between him and Susie where it's, like, show and tell. And it's like, "What did you bring for show and tell?"

And Susie says, "A letter to my Congressman." [laughs]

And he says, "I brought a bag of dead bugs."

[through laughter] And I'm like yes.

**Sydnee:** That was— that was a running theme. There was another one where he tries to make an insect collection on his way and he's, like, catching dead— he's, like, squishing bugs and putting them together to take to give to his teacher.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** [sighs]

**Raleigh:** [sighs] I, um— I read an article. I was preparing for this episode. It was actually on Vox, and it was about how throughout this pandemic and this lockdown and quarantine, we've all become Calvin in some way. We've all needed to become Calvin, 'cause they talk about how, like, he created Hobbes to kind of, like, escape the world, and it's his own reality.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** And through this lockdown, we all have become Calvin. We have all created our own realities [through laughter] to escape into. Um... with our own— our own Hobbes.

**Taylor:** I believe that.

**Raleigh:** I like that.

**Sydnee:** I think that's true. I always loved, um, the ones where it was just him and Hobbes, like, on a sled, or on the wagon, and the— really, it's funny. You talk about how there isn't really a punchline. A lot of those, there wasn't. The expected punchline, I guess, is that they would sort of fall at the end. Like, they would crash.

**Raleigh:** That's always funny.

**Sydnee:** But—[laughs quietly] but that was really, like— it was just them discussing something, about the world and about life, and why do things work a certain way, and why does it have to be like this. Or, have you ever thought about this interesting thing? While they are... tumbling down a hill on a sled.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And that was the whole thing.

**Taylor:** There's a lot that specifically, like, about, like, where do you think you go when you die? Or, what happens when you die? And, like, that's... it was always framed by them careening down the hill in a wagon or a sled. It was just an interesting vehicle for that— that discussion. Which, once again, never has a punchline, outside of, like, "I don't know. Maybe we... join a string quartet, or something." Like, it's always random.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** No, that's true. And they— that is interesting, 'cause it's a strip about a kid, and they have the one where he does, uh— his mom tries to save a— what was it? A baby bunny or something? Remember? And it dies?

**Taylor:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** There's the one, they try to rescue a baby animal, like, that they found that was hurt, and the baby— and then the animal passes away, and he has to, like, confront death.

**Raleigh:** Man.

**Sydnee:** I know!

[pause]

**Raleigh:** Got deep.

**Sydnee:** He's just, like, hugging Hobbes. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I know! The— I mean, it was a strip about those things, which is wild, 'cause I was— man. I just would devour those books as a kid.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I was so into that. [laughs] I was so into mortality.

**Raleigh:** That's very— it's a little weir— [laughs quietly] it's a little weird. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Um... and they had stuff like that, that were very much aimed at the parents, too. I remember there was one strip that I don't think there's any words in it. It's there's snow outside, Calvin is excited. He goes running over to his dad and, like, points out the window and his dad, like, gestures to his desk with, like, all these papers, like...

**Raleigh:** "Sorry, kid."

**Sydnee:** "Busy."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And so, he goes outside and, like, the dad's sitting there, and he's kind of looking out the window, and looking at his desk, and then he, like— the next— the last panel is him running outside to play with Calvin.

**Raleigh:** Aww. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And it's like, what kid was like, "Good. That dad made a good choice."

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** "You've gotta balance your family and work life, and the dad really got it in that moment."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know? No cats in the cradle, here. This is— this dad really [laughs]— you know. At tw— there was no way at 12 I was like, "I get this."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Well, I— the way that the parents are presented I think is really unique for the times, too. Because, you know, a lot of those— especially, like, the, you know, 80's and 90's comic strips, the family dynamics were so brutal in a lot of these! Like, the joke was, "Look at how abusive this father is!" Like, you know? Like—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** "Look at him yell at his wife and— and whack his kid!" Like, that was funny, I guess. But it's not— there's none of that kind of humor here. The parents are very, like... they're written like people, even though it's a comic.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. No, it's really true. They do. They love each other. They support and love their kid. When they get mad, they get mad in the way parents get mad.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Um, not in some exaggerated hyperbolic fashion. I mean, yeah, it... that is really true, and it is refreshing, especially when—[laughs quietly] when we just referenced *The Lockhorns*.

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

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Which is a comic strip about two people who are married and hate each other.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean, that's the whole thing. They're married, but they hate each other.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Like, I think that says something sad about your life if that's the comic that, like, "I need this in my life because it lets me laugh at myself." Like, no! [through laughter] Get out of your marriage!

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I think maybe counseling?

**Taylor:** [croaks]

**Sydnee:** Maybe? I don't know.

**Raleigh:** It feels like a BuzzFeed quiz. Like, "Tell us your go-to childhood comic and we'll tell you something about yourself."

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** [crosstalk].

**Raleigh:** And if you pick *The Lockhorns* it's just like, "Do you need a— are you okay?"

**Taylor:** "Talk to somebody, please."

**Sydnee:** Um, I always— I always appreciate in, like, comic worlds like this when there's a character like Susie Derkens who I feel like is for me to be like, "Oh, there I am."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That's what I thought.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. "Oh, there you are, Sydnee."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "You showed up." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** There she is.

**Taylor:** That's a—

**Sydnee:** Good.

**Taylor:** I felt like on the dead bugs to letter to congressman spectrum, you are firmly [through laughter] in the Susie side of things.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Yeah, I definitely— I feel like, um— like Susie Derkens and Lisa Simpson are cut from the same cloth to some extent, you know?

**Taylor:** Yeah, I can see that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And then constantly looking at these other children in their life like, "[sighs heavily]"

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** It felt very similar to Charlie and Cooper as well.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Like, dead bugs, letter to congressman. I was like, "Well, there's Charlie, and there's Cooper with her dead bugs." [laughs]

**Taylor:** I do like the, uh— you know, I mean, like, the kind of awareness of the weird way that young people I guess flirt without really knowing it. Like, there's that kind of— those cute moments where, like, you know, they're both calling each other various insults, and then they're like, "Oh, you know, he likes me! She likes me!" It's a very, like... you know, it's— it's an— it's a— they're both aware of, like, having, like, childhood crushes on each other, which I think is cute.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** What did, uh, he— and he had the, um... boys only club, G.R.O.S.S? What it— but what did it stand for? Get rid of... uh... I'll have to look that up. But that... um... there was that. And, uh... I don't know where I was going with that. Anyway... [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I was thinking about the Susie and Calvin back and forth. Um...

**Taylor:** Have you— that makes me think, did you see that, uh— it's not— it's not Bill Watterson, but somebody mimicked his style very well not too long ago and did, like, a grownup Calvin... strip?

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah.

**Taylor:** And it was Calvin and Susie married? It was very sweet.

**Sydnee:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** Aww.

**Taylor:** As much as I— as much as I don't want to see somebody, you know... steal an artist's style and make work unlicensed, it was a very nice fan tribute, I'd say, to Bill Watterson.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Um, G.R.O.S.S is "Get rid of slimy girls," but the last S is the S at the end of girls. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's how. That's how. That's how, okay.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes, yes.

**Sydnee:** Um... and him and Hobbes have to fight for positions in the club.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause he's, like, President and First Tiger, and then Calvin becomes, like, Dictator for Life or something. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Yeah. He does call himself Dictator for Life.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I do appreciate the, um— but yeah, I appreciate the idea that— 'cause in my head, of course they grew up and got married, and, like, Calvin gives Hobbes to his little boy or girl, right?

**Raleigh:** You're about to cry right now. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, I'm just saying, like, that— you know! That has to be...

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** We have to create this world for these characters.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Although alternatively forever children is probably...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Probably quite legitimate for Calvin, and the world that he lived in with Hobbes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um... but yeah. The other thing that I still quote from *Calvin and Hobbes* is chocolate frosted sugar bombs.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I will frequently tell my children that they can't have cereal for breakfast because essentially it's just chocolate frosted sugar bombs, and you don't need that right now. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Maybe just as a treat, but no, we're gonna eat something healthy. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** II think one of my ongoing favorite bits is the... dad's ranking in the house that Calvin frequently reports on. [laughs] Like, "Dad, you're— they're poll— you're way down in the polls."

**Sydnee:** Yes!

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] It's just— I don't know why it's so funny to me, but... [sighs] he's got, like, a bar graph of, like, dad.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Oh, those are so good. Yeah, it really— I think that it gave a window to the fact that— and you knew this— I mean, even though I wasn't reading it when I was six, and it's about a six-year-old, um, you know still pretty intimately when you are young that you've been having these big thoughts, and big questions, and big ideas for a long time. And adults seem to not get that, right?



Like, that's part of childhood is feeling like all the adults assume you don't get it, but you do get it, only you don't know how to cope with it, and you just are left to sort of puzzle it out in your kid brain by yourself. And that is, like, such a fundamental experience to childhood that this is just all about, and gives voice to, and light to, and room to, and to read it is so reassuring.

That yes, this is— especially as a kid, yes, that is where we all are. All of our brains are doing that. You're not alone, you know. And you can tell it to a stuffed tiger if you want to, because you're not alone. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** I don't know. That was a fundamental thing for me, is I felt like I was there with Calvin and Hobbes and Susie, and we were fine.

**Raleigh:** Everybody's fine.

**Taylor:** And I think— you know, as an adult, it's still much the same. Like, it's a comic about the... intense, nuanced inner world that we all have. We all have those beliefs and those little, you know, fantasies, and, you know, like, our... the— the vehicles for talking to ourself, basically. Like, so I don't think it's— you know, it doesn't just end with childhood. We find different ways of doing it that are more socially acceptable, but it's an evergreen comic, I feel like, for that reason.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** That's very true. Although instead of, um, like, philosophizing about life with my stuffed tiger at night, now I lay there in bed and, like, give imaginary speeches to congressional committees in my head.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Is that— doesn't everybody? Isn't that what you all do?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Basically?

**Taylor:** Yeah. I talk to Jack a lot.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] I talk to Ruth a lot.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Just the congressional committees. That's all that's in my head. Just... speeches.

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Yeah, alright.

**Sydnee:** Anyway, thank you both.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That was— it was wonderful to delve back into that world. That was a very comfortable, safe place for me growing up, and I appreciated you all sharing it.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Thank you.

**Taylor:** I was happy to.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** What's next?

**Taylor:** Uh, I believe it's my turn next.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Uh, I wanna talk about a movie. I wanna talk about— I believe it came out in 1998, uh, *SLC Punk!* [laughs quietly] Starring Matthew Lillard.

**Sydnee:** Alright!

**Raleigh:** Hmm. I've never seen it.

**Sydnee:** I haven't either, but I love Matthew Lillard.

**Raleigh:** Excited.

**Taylor:** It's been a while since I've rewatched it, but it was always— I don't know. For me it was a very seminal film of, like... sort of [laughs] punk culture, but also making fun of punk culture.

**Sydnee:** Excellent.

**Raleigh:** Awesome.

**Sydnee:** Alright. Well, we will watch that for next week.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, well, thank you both. Thank you, listeners. Um, I hope you enjoyed— I hope you have— if you haven't read *Calvin and Hobbes*, please do. You probably have. Most people have. But if you haven't, it's worth it. It holds up.

Uh, you should email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org) if you have thoughts or suggestions or questions or comments. You should tweet at us if you want to, @stillbuff. Um, and you should go to [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org) for lots of podcasts that I think you would enjoy. 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.

[music increases in volume]

**Sydnee:** I want some chocolate frosted sugar bombs.

**Raleigh:** That does sound good right now.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Although, I don't know. I— *Calvin and Hobbes*, the way that he draws food used to make me gag.

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

**Sydnee:** That's fair. That's fair. The dinner did— yeah, the dinner was rough.

**Taylor:** Just always like mush.

[theme music ends]

[radio effects]

**Speaker One:** Maximum Fun is a network by and for cool, popular people, but did you know it also has an offering designed to appeal to nerds?

**Speaker Two:** A show for nerds? On Maximum Fun? The devil, you say?

**Speaker One:** It's true! It's called *The Greatest Generation*, and they review episodes of a television program for nerds called *Star Trek*. They reviewed *TNG*, *DS9*, and are now reviewing *Voyager*.

**Speaker Two:** Hey, *Star Trek*! My daughter enjoys that program.

**Speaker One:** Well, if she enjoys that, and she enjoys humor of the flatulent variety, might I recommend she subscribe to *The Greatest Generation*?

**Speaker Two:** Hey, are you callin' my kid a nerd? Why, I oughta...

**Speaker One:** Well, gotta go! Become a [unintelligible] by subscribing to *The Greatest Generation* on Maximumfun.org today!

[running footsteps]

[chord]

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