

## Still Buffering 292: "Batman Returns" (1992)

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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:** I tried to do a good deed... last week.

**Rileigh:** Okay?

**Taylor:** Oh yeah?

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Uh, and I didn't.

**Rileigh:** Um...

**Sydnee:** I didn't do any harm, but I also didn't do any good.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** So you just did a— a neutral?

**Sydnee:** I did a neutral.

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

**Sydnee:** I did a neutral. I— there have been posters up in our neighborhood, homemade posters about a missing cat named Oscar. And we had thought we had seen the cat— I mean, a cat that fit that description— like, in the— sort of off the side in the woods on the road to our house several times. Mom thought she had seen it. I thought I had seen it. And so we had called the number on the poster and said, like, "We think we've seen the cat here a few times, if you

wanted to check in this area. If we see it we'll let you know but, like, we think we've seen this cat."

And they were like, "Okay, thanks. Let us know if you see the cat again."

So then we were all driving home from getting ice cream, and... we saw the cat.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I was late at night. [laughs quietly] Well, not late at night. It was dark, I should say. It was not late. Anything that is dark seems late to me.

**Rileigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause I'm old. But it was dark, and so we looked through the headlights and I was like, "Oh my God, that's the cat!"

And Mom was like, "You gotta save it!"

And I was like, "I'm on it."

So I jumped out of the car and started running into the woods like, "Oscar! C'mere, Oscar! [clicks tongue] Oscar!"

And so the thing is, the cat turned around and looked at me, and then came towards me. And so I thought, "I've got Oscar. I have saved Oscar. This is great."

And it looked like Oscar! And it— it was obviously somewhat domesticated, because it came to me when I called.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Let me pick it up. I was petting the cat. It was fine. All was well. Um, but then when Dad pulled the car a little closer so I could climb in with the cat, and Mom was in the midst of calling the number to tell them we found Oscar, uh, the— the headlights of the car scared Oscar... and Oscar proceeded to scratch the daylight of me.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Um... [laughs quietly] like, through my coat. Managed to, like, pierce my skin and draw blood through both my coat and sweater. So, like, really scratched the heck out of me.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I could not hold Oscar, so Oscar got away. And so I wandered around some more, continuing to call for Oscar. We called the people, the people were like, "We're on our way."

I'm still wandering around the woods. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** The kids are sitting in the car with their ice cream melting, crying 'cause Mommy has now been scratched, and the cat is wandering in the woods, and we're all freaking out. Um, only to have the people arrive, look at the cat, which we could see but wouldn't come close to us, and go, "Oh, that's not Oscar." [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So...

**Rileigh:** It was not the missing cat.

**Sydnee:** It was not the missing cat. We think that it actually might belong to one of the other people who live on the street, but we didn't— it didn't have a collar. It didn't have any way— I mean, but obviously it was somewhat used to people 'cause it came to me. Um, but— so that— that cat is still wandering in the woods. Maybe it's just around that house. Maybe it's just an outside cat. I hope it's just an outdoor cat that lives there.

**Rileigh:** So you almost stole...

**Sydnee:** But I almost stole a cat.

**Rileigh:** ... a cat.

**Sydnee:** That was not Oscar. I did not steal a cat.

**Taylor:** I don't know. Maybe there's more to this story. Maybe Oscar's owner is, like, after Oscar, you know, jetted, they were like, "Actually, this is kind of nice. Oscar was a butthead."

And so they're like, "Yeah, that was Oscar, but no, we're not gonna claim him."  
[laughs quietly]

**Sydney:** There was some discussion of that possibility, actually. Like, maybe they don't want Oscar. Which, like, if they didn't, I would hope, you know— I mean, I would've— I would've taken Oscar, but I also didn't want to accidentally steal someone's outdoor cat. But I just thought traditionally if you have an outdoor cat you put a collar on it or something. But I don't know. I'm not— this is not judgment. I've only ever had indoor cats, so I don't really know how outdoor cats work.

**Taylor:** Well—

**Riley:** They work—

**Sydney:** [laughs] I don't know—I don't know the rules on outdoor cats.

**Taylor:** You could've played it on the safe side and kept the cat that's not Oscar, but then put up your own signs that say, "Is this your cat? I stole it."

**Sydney:** [laughs]

**Riley:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "I didn't mean to, but it's safe, and I'll bring it back to you."

**Sydney:** [laughs] That sounds so threatening.

**Riley:** "I have this cat. Reward: a cat."

**Taylor:** Yeah, don't use, like—[laughs] don't use, like, magazine cutouts. Like, don't ransom the cat.

**Riley:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, and the people were like— 'cause we, know, we went to leave and they were like, "Well, did you want the reward for finding the cat?"

And it was like, okay, well, one—

**Rileigh:** We didn't!

**Sydnee:** No. I had no— I didn't know there was a reward, and I certainly don't need a reward for finding a cat that is lost. Like, the reward is, "Oh, good, a cat was found."

But also I didn't find the cat. [wheezes]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And I don't think I deserve a reward for almost unintentionally stealing someone's cat. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Is there, like, a second place? Some sort of consolation prize?

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

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

**Rileigh:** It's the stolen cat.

**Sydnee:** It's weird, because there's another cat that has started hanging around outside our house, which does not fit the description of Oscar, also does not look like this other cat. Um, it actually looks a lot like our dearly departed CJ, who now hangs out around our house, and I don't know—

**Rileigh:** It's very weird.

**Sydnee:** It's very weird, 'cause she looks very much— or he, I don't know the gender of the cat— but it looks very much like CJ, and so that's made the girls nervous, 'cause they think, like...

**Taylor and Rileigh:** Ghost cat.

**Sydnee:** It's—[laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** The ghost cat has come back. Um, but also, like, then I started thinking, like, "Well, do I need to take this cat in? But it seems fine. Like, it looks healthy and well-fed."

**Rileigh:** "Do I need to steal this cat?"

**Sydnee:** [laughs] And then I thought I'd be stealing someone else's cat, so I'll leave it be. But I don't know if it's someone's cat!

**Taylor:** Well, you know, you don't have to, like, take them inside and make them yours. You could just put out some food for them. I mean... see how that goes.

**Sydnee:** We'll start doing that and see how it goes. 'Cause it— it doesn't seem in distress. It seems very happy. It's just sort of, like, laying around in the neighborhood. Like, it always is in this same area, so it may belong to— you know, we're all sort of clustered on a hill, so there are lots of houses it could belong to.

**Taylor:** I mean, if it looks healthy and clean it's probably fine. 'Cause even if it's an outdoor cat, or even just, like, a— a feral cat, like, they're good at taking care of themselves. If you see, like, a friendly but— but dirty boy, then probably he's an indoor cat that somehow got outside, and now can't take care of himself.  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** No. No, both of these cats that I have encountered... and considered stealing... [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Both of them have looked clean, well-fed, healthy, content. You know, I mean, I did not get the sense that they were abandoned, but I don't know what to do. So, anyway.

**Rileigh:** I mean, if it makes you feel—

**Sydnee:** I almost stole a cat. I didn't, though.

**Rileigh:** If it makes you feel any better, my roommates and I also almost took a cat, um, not that long ago, because it was just a tiny little baby black cat that kept wandering into our backyard. And my roommate was like, "I have been wanting a black cat for so long. This is— this is— a manifestation of my dreams has appeared in our backyard."

So we set out food for it because we have two cats, and it kept coming back every single day for food. And I was like, "Well, this has to— this has to be a stray. I mean, it's coming back for food every day, so it's like it's not getting fed or something."

So we just, like, you know, kept trying to get it to, like, come inside. Like, we have a litterbox and we already have two cats. Like, we have all the things for cats. And it was dark, and we just hear a voice from the other side of the fence, like, "Hey, that's my cat." [laughs quietly]

It was the neighbors. We have a little tiny, like, garage apartment that's not connected to our house that's totally separate that's right on the other side of our fence, and I guess it belongs to the people that live in that tiny apartment.

**Sydnee:** So you almost stole a cat too!

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I just think— I think that— maybe you all don't fully understand how cats work. 'Cause they just— outdoor cats, like, they befriend everybody. They woo everyone in the neighborhood so they have multiple food places, but you don't take 'em inside. You just accept that you're in the cat's circle now, and you need to gift it things, but leave it alone.

**Sydnee:** I just think— I just think there should be some way to signify if a cat is an outdoor cat, which is fine, or a lost cat, which I need to save. I just want to— [laughs]

**Rileigh:** So just a— just, like, a little shirt they wear.

**Sydnee:** Yes! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** "I am an outside cat."

**Sydnee:** Something! Something so that I don't accidentally take your cat! I don't— 'cause I don't wanna take anyone's cat. I don't want any more cats, personally.

**Rileigh:** It seems like you do.

**Sydnee:** No! I just don't want it—

**Rileigh:** That's two, now.

**Sydnee:** I don't want any cats to be lost outside. It's Christmas time! [snort-laugh]

**Rileigh:** They need a Christmas family?

**Sydnee:** I mean, I don't want 'em to be lost! Anyway, I didn't take— all is fine. No one get angry. I did not steal anyone's cat. All the cats involved in this story are well.

**Rileigh:** It's just two cats under the tree. No presents for the girls. You're just—"Mommy did it!"

**Sydnee:** Mommy brought home cats.

**Rileigh:** "I brought home the two cats! I finally saved them both. I didn't have time to get you any presents 'cause all I did was save these cats." [laughs]

**Taylor:** No, steal these cats. A literal cat burglar. You just steal other people's cats.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** This is a great lead-in to our topic.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Ah, actually yes. We're talking about *Batman Returns* this week, so the sequel to the original *Batman* movie. This is the one starring, um, uh, Michelle Pfeiffer as Catwoman and Danny DeVito as Penguin and, uh... oh gosh. Uh... not—



**Sydnee:** Michael Keaton.

**Taylor:** Michael Keaton. [laughs] I was gonna say, not Val Kilmer. Michael Keaton.

**Sydnee:** Not Val Kilmer. Michael Keaton, who I have always thought was the best Batman. That's just my personal opinion. I'm not saying I'm right or wrong. It's just my personal preference.

**Taylor:** I really like him as Batman. I think anything that involves Val Kilmer, it's just on a... is Val Kilmer or not Val Kilmer is kind of where my brain goes, with most men, honestly. Um, but yes. Uh, my personal favorite of the Batman films.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Yeah. It is, um... it's a fun movie. I hadn't seen it in a very long time, and I had forgotten— I guess I had kind of forgotten what superhero movies used to be like. Like, before they got so, like... I don't wanna say— I mean, certainly not all the movies are, like, kind of dark and gritty. But, like, especially Batman took this really, like, realistic, you know... like, dark turn eventually. And these movies are not that. [laughs] You know? And I had kind of forgotten that's what it used to be like. Like, they tried to take a comic book and turn it into a movie, you know? Like, literally. Like, let's just visualize that onscreen.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** Well, and I think in that aspect it's successful. Like, it's a— it is— there's a lot of goofy stuff that goes on in the movie. There's a lot of sort of *Looney Tunes* violence, uh, that doesn't feel like real violence. Um, and, I mean, I think that— you know. It's directed by Tim Burton, and you can very much tell that. It's very gothic, but also, like, very, you know, whimsical. Uh, it's set during Christmas.

**Sydnee:** Sometimes gross.

**Taylor:** Yeah, it's a little gross.

**Sydnee:** Sometimes. I always thought that Tim Burton could do that. Do things that I'm sometimes like, "Ew!" [laughs] "Ugh!"

**Taylor:** I think everything that went into the design of the Penguin is a little... it's... I mean, the— the whole costuming of Danny DeVito in this movie is maybe my... one of my favorite things, if not my favorite thing about this film.

**Sydnee:** It really is. It is great. Um, it really makes it work. I— and the scene where he eats the raw fish...

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** ... is so in my brain. Like, when you said that movie, that was the first thing I thought of was him eating that raw fish. That is, like, so— that is a mark on my brain forever. I will never not see that occasionally. I'll close my eyes, and there's Danny DeVito as the Penguin eating that raw fish. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Ugh! And, I mean, you know, I feel like— like prominent prosthetics are hard in movies. Even, like, well-shot movies. But, like, he's got, like, a full— like, a— you know, I mean, he's supposed to look like a penguin so he's got a big beak nose and, like, really intense makeup. Like, weird blue drool the whole time. But it all works? [through laughter] Like, I don't know.

**Sydnee:** And his teeth? Oof.

**Taylor:** Yeah! If you haven't seen the movie, I guess quick— quick plot rundown. Uh, I don't know. There— it's— it's the origin story of the—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** It's weird to be like, "Do you know Batman? It's Batman." Uh, not gonna go into that. You should know that. Uh, but, you know, it starts off with, like, the Penguin being abandoned by his parents because they're upper-class people and he was born different. And, uh, he was tossed into the sewers and then, you know, flash forward and he's come back to Gotham for his revenge. Uh, meanwhile you've got the origin of Catwoman happening, which is a different— it's, you know, unique to this movie that she works for this— for Shreck, who— not *the* Shrek. Uh—

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** That is— that is a point.

**Rileigh:** [crosstalk]

**Sydnee:** Please continue with the plot, but we're gonna revisit the fact that Shreck is in this many times.

**Taylor:** Yes, Shreck is in this. Different Shreck. But, uh, she works for this, you know, kind of this... dirty businessman who is trying to build a power plant that sucks power, which I don't know how that was gonna work, but she discovers—

**Sydnee:** And the model of the power plant is so great.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That awful little, like, cardboard model with the big red smokestacks on top. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Just the— design something that looks evil and cartoonish. There you go.

**Sydnee:** Yep.

**Taylor:** But she's— she's— he— she discovers his plan, so he pushes her out a window, and then cats resuscitate her? Bring her back to life, and that's— she's Catwoman, so then... it's— it's— that's basically it. Then everybody fights back and forth for a while.

**Sydnee:** Everybody fights. Batman and Catwoman sort of fall in love, but also don't. Because she's inherent— you know, she's bad. She can't give it up. She's evil.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um, I would just like to add, uh, I admittedly am very unfamiliar with DC canon. I am— I mean, I don't watch a ton of superhero movies to begin with, but the ones I do watch recently have been Marvel ones, so the Batman canon I was not familiar with. I also had not seen this movie.

I d—[laughs quietly] I did not know that he is the Penguin because he was discovered and raised... by penguins under the zoo.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I didn't know it was actually penguins that made him— like, I had to pause and be like, "Huh. Okay. Interesting. I've accepted this, and continue."

**Sydnee:** Now, I don't know. Is that— that's probably not comic book canon, right?

**Rileigh:** Yeah, is this just the movie?

**Taylor:** Um, there is— there is— there are some comics that have— I mean, the canon that the Penguin is born somehow, like, formed differently, and that's why he was an outcast, and that's why he, you know, became a crime boss or whatever. I don't know. Bad message there. But that's true, you know. He's never just, like, a guy that has a penguin aesthetic.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Taylor:** Where it's like Catwoman is usually just a regular woman. She just dresses like a cat. Like, you know.

**Rileigh:** She's got a cat aesthetic. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah, she has a cat aesthetic. Uh, but, I mean, I think that this— specifically the whole "raised by penguins" thing, I don't—

**Rileigh:** [wheezy laughter]

**Taylor:** —I don't— I don't think that's a—[laughs] I don't think that's a— but I don't even know if the movie insinuates that he was raised by penguins, because he— he was—

**Rileigh:** That's fair.

**Taylor:** He was raised by the circus people. But then I guess after he... ate children? I don't know. Kids disappeared at the circus, and then he had to disappear. Like...

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I think that's— it's insinuated. I don't know that that's— but yeah, they definitely insinuate that. I— well, it's the same sort of— I really think with movies that were based on, like, comic books or superheroes or that kind of thing, for a long time they didn't give— they assumed, like, "Well, this is not a thinker. People are watching this—" you know? Like, people are just watching this for cartoonish violence and colorful things and, like, fights. And so we don't really need to— we can be really obvious with these things. So, like, the penguins— the Penguin, 'cause he was raised by penguins. There's the one, like, story of Batman where he's, like, Batman because he fell down a well and there were bats.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** And not this Batman but, like, another iteration of Batman, like—

**Taylor:** Where he just saw that.

**Sydnee:** —so literally, it's just the bats.

**Taylor:** There's that, too. He just saw a bat when he was sad and he was like, "I'm a bat now."

**Sydnee:** [snorts] "I'm a bat now, 'cause I saw a bat when I was sad!" [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Is that just, like, the go-to formula? Like, the Penguin was raised by penguins. Catwoman, like, was... saved by cats? So then is... cat? And Batman, like, sees some bats? Just, like, mm-kay.

**Taylor:** I mean, the— I feel like the... this era of movies— and, I mean, even going into, like, the follow-ups with, like, you know, *Batman Forever* and *Batman Returns*, the ones where you get, like, Uma Thurman's Poison Ivy. The real wacky characters.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** There's always this need to have a very sympathetic backstory for the characters— for the villain's origin to make it, like, this complex, like, Batman and all of this villains originated the same way. They had some horrible trauma, and then they changed somehow. You know, it's just Batman became a vigilante, and they all became villains. But they're so— they're the same— they're two sides of the same coin.

Like, and I feel like that's— that's absolutely true in the Batman comics. Like, that's where it comes from. But the movies, like, hit that every time. Like, this has— you know, this is the origin of every villain. Which I actually really like. I like— I mean, I believe that— we don't have cartoon superheroes running around, or villains running around big cities, but I do think that the message that, you know, people that do bad generally have bad things that happened to them I think is a true thing. It's not just like, "I grew up to be a mad scientist. I don't know, I just wanna, like, make the moon explode. That's just always been my goal. Had a well-adjusted childhood, just no more moon."

**Sydnee:** Well, and they do— they delineate very clearly between, like, those sorts of characters— which, like— I mean, 'cause Catwoman's goal is just kind of chaos, right?

**Taylor:** And revenge.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, revenge, chaos. She's not really on... the Penguin's side, necessarily, or Batman's at any— you know? It's just— it's kind of... whatever works for her, which is different than, like, Shreck. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** Christopher Walken as—

**Raleigh:** It's spelled with a C-K.

**Sydnee:** As Max Shreck.

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, let's call him by his first name. Just— Shreck. I'm picturing just Shrek.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Max Shreck, who is a very, like— I mean, he's just a bad guy, right? Like, I don't think we get a justification for why he's— he is bad because he wants to steal [laughs quietly] the city's power, so that then they have to put him in charge, because he's in charge of all the power now. I guess that's the way that— I feel like there are laws against that, but anyway. I—[laughs]

**Rileigh:** It's fine.

**Sydnee:** Whatever. [laughs] But that— but, like—

**Rileigh:** There are no laws.

**Sydnee:** It's a very straightforward bad. He's just bad. There is no reason for it. He's a bad guy.

**Taylor:** The fact that his plan got so far as to make a model, though, is really funny, because everybody—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** It's not like he fooled anybody. Like, the whatever, the City Commissioner looks at it, Bruce Wayne looks at it, and everyone's like, "No, that's— that's—" like, I mean, you know. Like Selina Kyle. Like, everybody that looked at it went, "Oh, this is not a power plant, dude."

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** But he just keeps on moving with it. Um... [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I do— I do gotta say, though. There was something I appreciate, which I feel like isn't specific to this movie. I feel like this maybe has happened in other maybe superhero movies, action movies. That, like, the bad person that doesn't have, like, any reason for— like, I don't know, pursuing revenge or whatever, that

just, like, seems to be a bad person, is often not, like, the master villain. You know what I mean? Like, isn't the Penguin, isn't Catwoman. Like, is just, like, a guy.

**Sydnee:** It's also easier— although in this— in this movie— spoilers, I guess. In this movie, they both pay, ultimately, in the end. But my thought was always like, if you do that, you can kill off the non-cartoony, you know... bad guy.

**Rleigh:** Yeah, that's a good way of saying it. The non-cartoony bad guy, yeah.

**Sydnee:** And then you have the option of preserving the cartoony one if you wanna use 'em in another movie, although they don't. They have, like, the sad, like, penguin...

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** ... carrying him off thing.

**Taylor:** That scene kills me.

**Sydnee:** I know! [laughs]

**Rleigh:** That was rough.

**Sydnee:** It is very sad! [laughs] But instead, they save Catwoman for a future— although she never shows up again, does she?

**Taylor:** Well, I mean, she's in, like, the Nolan iteration. Uh, but no. Not in, like, these movies. She was supposed to. There was— there was a—

**Sydnee:** Not this one.

**Taylor:** There was a planned spin-off that was supposed to involve Michelle Pfeiffer, and then it just fell through. So there was supposed to be a standalone Catwoman that was not the Halle Berry Catwoman, but it just never... never took off.

**Sydnee:** That makes sense as to why they don't— I mean, like, it makes sense that they don't kill her off because she's a sympathetic character for most of the movie, and so why— you know, it would be very dissatisfying, I think, from a



storytelling perspective. But I also thought it seemed so intentional. Like, they want to bring her back.

Um... the other thing I want to talk about is something that I had forgotten about these movies. Um, which is that Batman kills people.

**Rileigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** But before—[laughs]

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] But before we talk about that...

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

**Sydnee:** Uh, so as we have mentioned, since we are talking about a Christmas movie— you know, *Batman Returns*.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** It is the holiday season. And, uh, if you are like me, you're scrambling to finish out that present list, figure out, um, gifts for all your loved ones that will be special. Something different, something that maybe they hadn't thought off that they hadn't necessarily asked for that would, you know, really mean a lot to them, and Storyworth could be the solution you're looking for. In fact, I'm gonna say it probably is. Uh, every week, Storyworth will email your relative or friend a thought-provoking question of your choice from their vast pool of possible options.

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**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "What'd you do last weekend?" Um, stuff that you, you know, want to know about your loved ones, but maybe have never thought to ask. Like, what's

the bravest thing you've ever done in your life? Or, if you could see into the future, what would you wanna find out?

Um, those sorts of questions that really let you get to know a person that no matter how well you already know them, get to know them a little bit better. And find out things maybe about, like, you know, your parents or grandparents that, uh— that you could treasure forever, to have that memory that, you know, you just hadn't thought to ask about.

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**Sydnee:** So, I had forgotten—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —like, I feel like in later movies, Teylor, and you know this stuff better than me because you are more in touch with the lore, like the original comic book lore and all that, but I feel like one of the things about Batman which has always set him apart from, like, a Superman, is that Batman always kind of wants to kill people, but doesn't. Like, he holds himself back from, like— he's not gonna go all the way there, but he's always sort of, like, on the edge in a way that, like, Superman wouldn't. But in this movie... like, Batman sets a guy on fire.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Batman straps explosives to another guy and throws him into the sewer.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** Like, he, like, just— like, he straight up murders people.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Yeah, it's a— 'cause that's a big part of comics. And I mean, also then in, like, the more recent movies is, like, the— Batman has a code. That, you know, he— is vigilante justice, but he ultimately tries to work in line with, like, you know, well— he will— the Joker will murder, like, millions of people and he'll be like, "Eh, he's gotta go to jail. Gotta pay for his crimes." [laughs] Like, he won't kill him. He's gonna do this again in a week! But whatever. But yeah, I don't— I noticed that too. Like, this movie is just like, "Whatever. Just— here's here's a bomb. See ya, bud." Uh, it's a little comical. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** It really— it really threw me, because I hadn't really thought about it. Um, I was so used to this idea that Batman almost kills people that won't, and then as I started watching this movie, and there— like, first of all, he fights in his Batmobile a lot. He used his Batmobile for fighting.

**Rileigh:** Batmanmobile.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [laughs] Which is— which is fun. It's like a— it's like a precursor to *The Fast and the Furious* where they just end up using their cars for all purposes. Like, well, you can use a car to steal that. You can use a car to...

**Rileigh:** And then *Transformers*.

**Sydnee:** Used... [laughs] exactly!

**Rileigh:** Just car cars.

**Sydnee:** He's like— he starts off fighting with his car where, like, there's the— [laughs quietly] the circus troupe, and the guys on stilts. And so he, like, has the bars that stick out of his Batmobile, and then just knock 'em down. And I was watching that and I was thinking, like, "Those people could really get hurt that way! He's gotta be careful!!"

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And this is right before he sets the guy on fire with the Batmobile!  
[laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah, yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And I was like, "Oh! This is when Batman didn't care."

**Taylor:** No. It is all— well, I mean, 'cause it seems like there's that moment when, like, Selina's about to kill Max Shreck where he's like, "No, no, no. Like, you can't go that far."

But it's like, dude! [through laughter] You've— you've iced, like, ten circus performers in this movie. Like...

**Sydnee:** He strapped a bomb to the one guy and threw him down the sewer!

**Taylor:** Well, there's also the scene where he's got, like, the Batarang and he programs the Batarang with, like, "Oh, I'm surrounded by five people. Doot, doot, doot, doot." Everybody just stands there and waits for him to program in their positions. It's great.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** And then he flings it and, like, we know what a Batarang is. That's razors on all sides. So the camera follows as, like— we don't see blood but, I mean, presumably it is slicing all of these people in the head? [through laughter] I don't know!

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, it's just going on a murder rampage! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's really— it's really strange how Batman just kills people. And then, like— 'cause then what— the idea later that, like, Batman is the bad guy, like they're trying to frame Batman and he's the one responsible for stuff to turn the

public against him, it's like, well, I mean, I did see him murder a lot of people in the street so... I guess that could've happened.

**Taylor:** Like, I know those dudes on stilts were part of the evil— what is it? The red triangle gang. The—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But also, that that was, like, "Yeah, we're gonna go cause some chaos in the city. Alright, I'm gonna get my stilts." [through laughter] Like...

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** What did they do? What harm did they cause, Batman? [through laughter] Like, they were just... walkin' around on their stilts! What can you do from up there? Nothing.

**Sydnee:** I love that, uh, the guy who, before he gets set on fire, who is spitting fire, one of his first things you see him do is go open the door to a toy store and set all the toys on fire. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Just to underline, like, "Look how bad these guys are."

**Rileigh:** "He's a bad guy."

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** "Did you see that giant teddy bear he just set on fire? That was rough."

**Rileigh:** I— like, every—

**Sydnee:** "Don't worry. He's gonna burn to death."

**Rileigh:** Tey, ever since you said that Batman has a code, all I've been sitting here thinking is, like, what is Batman? The origin story for Dexter.

**Taylor:** [laughs] A little bit!

**Rileigh:** 'Cause— Batman, the precursor to Dexter.

**Taylor:** Well, I mean, he watched his parents get murdered.

**Rileigh:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** And he had trauma from that, and the way he processed his trauma— well, I mean, I don't wanna— I don't wanna get too deep into, like, weird Batman theories. But I've always felt like the whole point of it is, all of these— of the, like, villains that have these tragic origin stories, and then that makes them target certain things, like, Batman had trauma at the hands of a... a bad guy. Somebody trying to commit a crime. And so it's not that he combats crime for justice, it's that that is his— he's just targeting the thing that hurt him, just like everybody else. So he's not any different than all the bad guys. It's just his particular target happens to be people that are deemed as bad guys. So it's just traumatized people beating up on other traumatized people.

**Rileigh:** That makes sense.

**Sydnee:** It— the movie also has a very, like, um— and I know it came out in, what, '92?

**Taylor:** I think so.

**Sydnee:** But it— I feel like it still— movies in that time period have so much of the— like, an 80's feel to them, still. Um, and there's that sort of, like, complete cynicism of, um, the Penguin is gonna be elected— er, is trying to be elected mayor, and when he first comes down and sees his campaign staff, and he's— I mean, I don't know. Are those pajamas that he's wearing? It's some sort of—

**Taylor:** It's just his little suit. I don't know.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] What— any—

**Rileigh:** He's a penguin.

**Sydnee:** Well, you know what I mean. Like, he's not exactly dressed formally, let's say. And he's eating a raw fish, and then he proceeds to, like, bite a guy's

nose off. And they're all, like, ready to— "Okay, let's elect him mayor." And it's just such a cynical, like, "Whatever. Whatever we gotta do to, you know, reach our ends. Like, whatever that means. It doesn't matter. This is—[laughs quietly] this is the 80's, man. Let's go for it."

Um, it has so much of that in it. It was funny watching it 'cause I was like, "Man, that's dark." This was the time period. This was what— it really was. And, like, especially the early 90's, a lot of that had spilled over to, like— that sort of nihilism. Like, "Yeah, that's what it's like, man. That's politics." [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Well, you know, who are the real villains? The— the damaged people that, you know, are... are committing crimes out of revenge for horrible things that have happened for them, or just the status quo? The upper class, the people that just operate this way normally? I'm not saying that on a theoretical level. Like, the movie definitely says that. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydney:** Mm-hmm. Um, I really enjoy Catwoman's transformation into Catwoman.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydney:** Um, that starts with chugging the milk. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** That whole scene. I mean, I also, like— just the design of this movie. Her apartment, that— that— like, that soft salmon pink with, like, the turquoise accents, and then she comes in and, like, knocks out the lights on "Hello, there." Like, gets the one black article of clo— the— the black spray paint on the kitten sweater. Like, that scene is so melodramatic, but I love it. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** The part that I loved the best was actually the black spray paint on the dollhouse.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** That— I was, like, laughing! I was like, "Oh my God! It's so perfect."  
[laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** "This bedroom is *dark* now." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** "I am spray painting it all black." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh, it was great.

**Sydnee:** I...

**Taylor:** Yeah. I don't— I mean, I think that there have been some pretty solid Catwomans, uh, but I think Michelle Pfeiffer is easily my favorite as far as live action Catwomen go.

**Sydnee:** I really would've loved—

**Rleigh:** [laughs] Catwomens.

**Sydnee:** —um, 'cause she is great, and I love Michelle Pfeiffer. I mean, that's well known. You know, for her best work, *Grease 2*. But, uh... I— I would really love to see that Catwoman with— given some of the depth that, like, these characters would be given in a movie today. You know what I mean? 'Cause, like, a lot of what she says in the movie— and this is true for a lot of the characters, but especially villains— they kind of are constantly just giving these little one-liners.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, I feel like they tried to write in this sort of feminist angle with her, and I don't think they failed. But I do think it stayed in that realm of, like, quippy comic book dialogue, you know?

**Rleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Life's a B, and now so am I.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rleigh:** Now, that, I love.



**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Uh, I did read that it wasn't actually originally Michelle Pfeiffer that they cast. Um, that it was Annette Bening and she got pregnant.

**Sydnee:** Oh, I didn't know that.

**Rileigh:** So then were like, now Michelle Pfeiffer, so.

**Taylor:** I cannot imagine anybody else playing that role.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She's so good. And didn't she do that whip thing for real?

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm, all in one shot.

**Sydnee:** I thought I saw that video.

**Rileigh:** Really?

**Sydnee:** With the, um, mannequin heads.

**Rileigh:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** She really did that.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Wow.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, right?

**Rileigh:** That's crazy.

**Sydnee:** That's talent. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah. That's talent.

**Taylor:** Well, I feel like you can see that in the scene, though, knowing that. Like, how happy she is when she gets 'em all. [laughs] It's like, how many times did you try to do that? Then you did it.

**Sydnee:** It's, uh— it really is, though. Like, it's weird to watch sometimes, those older movies. Um, and the way that they handle the violence. Not just with, like, Batman killing people, but I was thinking about the scene where he— I mean, he basically throws her off a roof because she, like, stabbed him with her claw. Which, like, don't get— I mean, like, I get it. They're fighting. She tried to kill him. But he throws her off a roof! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Like, he just— like, really violently just, like...

**Rileigh:** Shwoop!

**Sydnee:** Done. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yep.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And she is saved, of course, comically, by a truck of kitty litter. But, you know, like... [laughs] he just threw her off a roof!

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Batman?!

**Taylor:** Well, I mean, yeah. The— there's, like, hypervi— it's funny that this movie is PG-13, I think. I don't think it would get that rating now, because there is— there is a lot of— it's cartoonish violence. Like, it reminds me of, like, *Tom and Jerry* kind of stuff. But, you know, there's that, and there's also a lot of sexual, like, innuendos in this movie for PG-13.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like... that is not just some, like, romantic, like, flirting. They're making very suggestive comments to each other. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydney:** Yeah. Which is definitely— I feel like that was kind of always baked into the Catwoman character. Which I don't know how you escape it when... she's dressed in, like, you know, all leather. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Sure, yeah.

**Sydney:** It's a sexual costume. It's a sexual character. It's always kind of had that feel. Like, that she's using that as part of her— like, that is one of her weapons. Obviously not her only one. She has a whip, quite literally, and claws. But, you know, one of her weapons is her sexuality.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** That she uses to trick men. Which Batman falls for a lot!

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Like, the first time they fight and she's like, "How could you? I'm a woman!"

And his re— "Oh, oh, oh, I'm sorry. Oh, oh, you're right! Oh!" [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydney:** That was a very bumbling Batman in that moment. That was— that— again, it's—

**Rileigh:** Bumbling Batman.

**Sydney:** —[laughs] it's not a Batman I'm used to seeing, just because in the more modern movies that is not...

**Taylor:** I kind of like a bumbling Batman, though. I don't know. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It's— he's more of a *Teen Titans Go* sort of Batman.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** He just wants to sit at home with Alfred and watch TV, and he doesn't know why he has to keep—

**Rileigh:** It does give off that vibe, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [laughs quietly] Why does he have to keep doing all this stuff?

**Taylor:** I love— I mean, speaking of Alfred, the scene where he's going down to, I don't know, broadcast the Penguin's disparaging comments about the city—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —and he goes through the sarcophagus. And it's right after he was talking about all this security. Like, you know, people could have just walked into the Batcave in the past. And he takes the sarcophagus, and Alfred says, "I'll take the stairs." But then you really do see just a giant flight of stairs in the Batcave! It's like, what— so why did you— why did you take the mummy slide? [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Why do you have a mummy slide if there are stairs easily accessible?

**Rileigh:** It's just more fun. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] What are— what are you doing?

**Sydnee:** It is— it is a very fun idea that they're leaning into. That, like, secretly Batman's like, "Well, I got all this money and this seems—"

**Rileigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "This seems it'd be really cool to have a—" like, a blank check kind of Batman who's like, "Well, I mean, I guess if I'm gonna have a Batcave, I'm gonna have a secret entrance, and..." [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, he's not like— like, the— you know, the Christopher Nolan Batman is such, like, a highly, like, honed killing machine with, like, no visible emotions. You have to dig through ten layers to see him smile. And, like, the Michael Keaton Batman just seems like a guy! [laughs] Like—

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** He does. Well, he doesn't use— like, his Batman voice is not on the level of other Batman voices.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** You know? It's a lot more just like a guy talking.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** "I am Batman."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Um, it is— it's a little more— but, I mean, I guess that time-wise it makes sense, 'cause it's a closer evolution from, like, Adam West.

**Taylor:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Sydnee:** Batman. Where, like— which— did you ever watch any of the old—

**Rileigh:** Mm-mm.

**Sydnee:** —the old, old Batman, when they had shark repellent Batman?

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] No?

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It's all campy. It's all kind of silly and, like, it reminds me a little more of, like, Batman— at one point all the world leaders... [laughs quietly] What, do they get, like, turned into dust? They turn into powder?

**Taylor:** Pebbles? I don't know. Yeah. Little pellets in tubes.

**Sydnee:** And they're all in these, like, test tubes?

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And, like, he's gotta rehydrate them.

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Of course.

**Sydnee:** To save the world. And at the end, he does, but they all got sort of mixed up. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And so, like, now they're all, like, speaking the wrong languages. Like...

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And they don't match. And he's like, "Well, maybe this will make things better. Anyway... " and he climbs out the window, and that's it!

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** I think— like, there's that scene right after that of him and Robin just scaling down a video in broad— er, a building in broad daylight. Like, "Yep. I'll just make a silent... exit." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Slow. A silent, very slow exit, down the side of this building, very slowly. As, like, all the world leaders are arguing with each other. [laughs] And he's like, "Well... close enough." [laughs]

**Rileigh:** "My job's done."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Almost. You know? You know, close. It was really close.

**Rileigh:** I did my best.

**Sydnee:** I did my best.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's what really counts at the end. We did our best, Robin. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Let's go watch TV.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] This Michael Keaton Batman is still a little closer to that Batman.

**Taylor:** I agree with that. I think that's a fair assessment. And I think it's a sweet spot. 'Cause then, like, you move forward and it's almost like, you know, after that you get into— the next movies are a little bit sillier, but I feel like this is a good, like... it's not— it's not reality at all, but it does feel like well-made comic book film, you know?

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Yes. It does. And if you look at it that way then, like, the violence, the fact that people actually do die, and that kind of stuff, if it's in that sort of cartoonish way, it all works together. If you try to cast it in a light of the way these movies are made today where, like, you know, people with superpowers or supervillains or— not that Batman has superpowers, but you know what I mean. Like, that kind of character. They're taken so— they're real people, today. They're treated as, like, real humans with real dialogue and real feelings and real— you know, and that wasn't what this was.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I was thinking about, like, in, um, uh... *The Dark Knight*, the— the— when— Heath Ledger's Joker.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Like, his whole master plan. How many people have written, like, essays picking apart how, like, "This would be so hard to organize, though, because you'd have to assume this would happen!" It's like, these, like, timelines trying to figure out how you would mastermind that. And then here it's, like, you know, Danny DeVito's Penguin. Like, when did he have time to build a tiny Batcar machine to drive around? Like, that happened in, like, a day. Like, his— his plans make no— how did you get a— a giant duck underneath Max Shreck's ballroom? Like, what— what happened? That doesn't matter! [laughs] When did you get an army of mind-controlled, rocket-powered penguins? Who cares?! Like the idea that these penguins are just gonna go into the city and explode and sacrifice themselves for chaos? Like, that is a wild... so, like, the picking apart of the more realistic movies was funny in context. It's like... none of this makes sense.

**Sydnee:** It is. 'Cause at the end of the day, it's borne of, you know, a fantasy. Like, it is not real. It is very much not real, and it's not supposed to be real.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And I do appreciate, on that level. And it is, like I said, Michael Keaton is always my fav, my personal favorite Batman. I just... I don't know.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I mean, I think— I don't know. I was just rewatching it, and when the Penguin realizes that the Batman is coming to his secret lair, and then all of his circus friends abandon him?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm?

**Taylor:** The scene where all of the acrobats are cartwheeling away sadly...

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] They all looked really sad! Slowly just cartwheeling out of the frame. Just maybe— maybe the best.



**Sydnee:** It really is. I mean, the— the use of the circus performers as— the ones— and, I mean, it is, like— if you wanna talk about something that would be terrifying, like, your city being attacked by, you know, murderous circus performers. I mean, that's an intense— like, that's scary. That's a scary prospect.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** 'Cause, I mean, you've gotta figure if they have so much confidence that they're willing to, like, take this on on stilts...

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** ... they know what they're doing. Right?

**Taylor:** That's fair.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And stilts are scary.

**Sydnee:** Stilts are inherently scary!

**Taylor:** They were just there as an intimidation factor, I think. Like, that's— you know?

**Sydnee:** Now, before we stop talking about this movie, I think we have to ask the core question, which is, then is this a Christmas movie? [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Okay. It literally ends with, you know, "Merry Christmas, good will towards men and women." Like, it's a Christmas movie.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's a Christmas movie?

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** *Batman Returns* is a Christmas movie.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** It is entirely— there is a huge plot point involving a Christmas tree more than once. Like, there's a Christmas Queen, Princess.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Do you think, uh, that there are any other Christmas movies where Danny DeVito eats a raw fish?

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** I... I hope so.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Because I think it's notable for being the only Christmas film in which that occurs.

**Rileigh:** That's what it's notable for?

**Sydnee:** I mean, I think you could also say, like, does anyone eat— just stand there and eat a raw fish?

**Taylor:** I mean...

**Rileigh:** Is there any movie of any genre where Danny DeVito eats a raw fish?

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Only this one.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's a fun question.

**Taylor:** It probably happened on *It's Always Sunny*.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't know. Maybe it just— I adore Danny DeVito with my entire heart, and this role for him is just so— it's just so good. [laughs quietly]

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

**Sydnee:** He is— he's excellent. I mean, he is— I mean, it's fun to watch. Like, it is very different. It is not what we see in these sorts of movies now, but it is fun, like, in its own right. For what it is, it is good, it is funny, it is fun, it's clever. Um, I love Michelle Pfeiffer.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah. Well, and I think in a way, not quite as campy, but in a way a lot of superhero movies have come back around to this. You know, everything had to be super serious and super gritty, and now I think, like, the MCU— they have, like, a lot of humor in their movies now. Like, they have jokes. They have some kind of campy moments, or moments that are homages to the comics. Which I think, like, you know, bringing that back in is an important element.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You really do need that, 'cause otherwise, exactly like you said, then you start going, "Well, that doesn't seem realistic." And it's like... it's not... I mean, it's not supposed to be. People are flying. [laughs] Like, there are aliens. It's not— none of it's supposed to be. [laughs] But I think that... I don't know. This movie does a good job of, like, starting to lean towards that more realistic stuff without... without letting go.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I mean, the audiences of comic book movies and superhero movies have, like, extended so far beyond just people that read comics. Now it's like people that never touched a, you know, original Marvel, DC comic of any kind, now go see every new... spin-off. I don't know. Marvel movie, Avengers, all of 'em. So, yeah. I do like, though, that there are nods to the comics. 'Cause then it's like, "Hey, I know there's a few of you out there that are gonna get this!"

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] A few of you.

**Rileigh:** "But if not, then... here's some battles, and here's a few jokes."

**Taylor:** Well, we've got— we've got the new Batman coming up with, uh— with the... shiny vampire. Right?

**Sydney:** Robert Pattinson. Hey, listen.

**Riley:** Well...

**Sydney:** I like that guy. [laughs]

**Riley:** Wikipedia told me that Keaton— this says Keaton is also set to reprise the role of Batman in the DC Extended Universe in *The Flash* in 2022.

**Sydney:** Really?

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Riley:** That is—

**Taylor:** That's cool.

**Riley:** —that is what Wikipedia told me. But...

**Sydney:** I love— I love Michael Keaton as Batman. I'm excited to see Robert Pattinson as Batman! He's a— he's a good actor.

**Riley:** Yeah. Love that shiny vampire.

**Sydney:** Mm-hmm.

**Riley:** [snorts]

**Sydney:** I was into those movies at one point.

**Riley:** Yes you were! [laughs]

**Taylor:** We all know.

**Riley:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I was always a little bit more Team Jacob, but, well, whatever.

**Rileigh:** [quietly] Of course you were.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Alright. Well, thank you, Teylor. [laughs] We have—

**Teylor:** Thank you for watching this very good Christmas movie with me.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** This is a new— this is— add this to your, um, holiday favorites. This is— officially, we have decla— if *Die Hard* can be a Christmas movie, you know what? So can *Batman Returns*.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Teylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Speaking of Christmas movies...

**Rileigh:** Yes?

**Sydnee:** What's next. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** You know what's next. It's the *Princess Switch 3*.

**Sydnee:** I am so excited to watch this movie.

**Rileigh:** We ran—

**Teylor:** How are they gonna do it again?!

**Rileigh:** We ran out of Christmas Princes, um, and now they're just making Princess Switches, and I think in this one there's yet another Vanessa Hudgens?

**Sydnee:** Is there?

**Rileigh:** I think there's another. I don't know.

**Sydnee:** Are there four?

**Rileigh:** I think there— I don't know. Maybe there's not. Maybe I've been misinformed.

**Sydnee:** Because I— okay. So, I've watched the trailer, and I only saw three. And I was so bummed 'cause I was like, "Come— do it. Give as a fourth!"

**Rileigh:** Give us a fourth!

**Sydnee:** Give us a fourth! But...

**Taylor:** There's gotta be a fourth.

**Rileigh:** We'll see.

**Sydnee:** I'll guess we'll just have to see.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. So we're gonna— it'll be our last episode before, uh, the Christmas holiday, so.

**Sydnee:** *So, Christmas Switch 3.*

**Rileigh:** *Princess Switch 3.*

**Sydnee:** *Princess Switch 3.* Yes.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** *Princess Switch 3.* Uh, it's a heist something.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Or caper.

**Rileigh:** A hol— holiday...

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Rileigh:** ... heist?

**Sydnee:** Hol— I don't know.

**Rileigh:** Caper?!

**Sydnee:** A caper? [laughs] A Christmas caper? I don't know!

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It's the third one.

**Sydnee:** They're stealing something, it seems like.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, there are multiple Vanessa—

**Sydnee:** There's a theft. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** —Vanessas Hudgens. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Not a cat. They don't steal a cat. No one stole a cat! Let me just reiterate that. Not me, or anyone else.

**Taylor:** Wait, is it gonna be like an *Ocean's Eleven* situation but they're all Vanessa Hudgens?

**Sydnee:** [screams]

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Yes!

**Taylor:** [laughs] If that's what we're working up to. I'm on board.

**Sydnee:** If that is the movie, it's the best movie ever. I've already decla— I haven't even seen it and I— I've declared it the best movie ever.

**Rileigh:** It's the best movie of all time.

**Sydnee:** So. [laughs] Alright. Well, good. We'll— we'll watch that for next week, and I'll hope you all do too. And enjoy *Batman Returns*, and Michael Keaton and Michelle Pfeiffer and Danny DeVito. Gosh, Christopher Walken! You just can't.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It just goes on and on—

**Rileigh:** Shreck.

**Sydnee:** Shreck is right there.

**Taylor:** Shreck.

**Sydnee:** The original Shrek. Um... [laughs quietly] thank you all. [laughs] Thank you, listeners. Uh, you should go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the great podcasts there. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org if you have thoughts or suggestions or questions. Um, Candlenights is this— this'll go out before— yes.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It is this weekend. The 18th.

**Rileigh:** This Saturday?

**Sydnee:** Saturday, right? Yeah. Saturday, at...

**Rileigh:** Nine.

**Sydnee:** 9 o' clock. And... hold on. Let me tell you... how you can... find that. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** You're doing great.

**Sydnee:** Alright. [laughs] Sorry. Uh, yes. So, Candlenights, December 18th, 9 PM Eastern Time. Tickets are five dollars, or if you can give more, all benefits go to Harmony House, so feel free to give more if you can. If not, tickets are five dollars, and you can go to [bit.ly/candlenights2021](https://bit.ly/candlenights2021)... if you want to, uh— if you want to watch.

**Rileigh:** It'll be available for, like, two weeks after if you get a ticket, so.



**Sydnee:** Yep, yep.

**Rileigh:** Even if you can't watch it when it premieres at 9 o'clock.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Then— then yes, even if you can't watch it then, it's available after. And, uh, there's a lot of great stuff on there. All the shows, and... you would love it, and again, it benefits Harmony House, a wonderful organization in our community that provides services for people experiencing homelessness. Um, and, uh, and it'd be great if you could, so. [Bit.ly/candlenights2021](https://bit.ly/candlenights2021). And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "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...

**Taylor:** ... too.

**Sydnee:** ... too. [laughs quietly] Just gonna go... meow.

[all laugh quietly]

**Sydnee:** I feel like she did that a lot.

**Rileigh:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** You nailed it.

**Sydnee:** Thanks.

[music plays]

**Tre'vell:** Hey there, beautiful people! I'm Tre'vell Anderson.

**Jarrett:** And I'm Jarrett Hill. We are the hosts of *FANTI*, the show where we have complex and complicado conversations about the grey areas in our lives; the things that we really, really love sometimes, but also have some problematic feelings about.

**Tre'vell:** Yes. We get into it all! You wanna know our thoughts about Nicki Minaj and all her foolishness? We got you. You wanna know our thoughts about gentrification? Perhaps some positive, question mark?

**Jarrett:** Uh-oh.

**Tre'vell:** Aspects of gentrification? We get into that too. Every single Thursday, you can check us out at [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org). Listen, you know you want it honey, so come on and get it!

**Jarrett:** [laughs]

**Tre'vell:** Period.

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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