

Still Buffering 292: "La La Land"

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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 Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee: So, uh, do we wanna continue talking about guinea pig and cat farts, as we were doing immediately prior to the recording, or do—

Raleigh: No. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —did we have something else?

Taylor: Not necessarily. I don't know if I wanna forever document about that conversation.

Raleigh: Yeah. All I— I just— I went to go look up the film that we're discussing today on my phone and I realized the last thing I had pulled up was, late last night in a half-induced— or a half-melatonin-induced sleep state, uh, I looked up "can guinea pigs fart?" because I heard my guinea pigs making noises that sure sounded like farts. I didn't know what else they'd be.

Sydnee: Is there anything more embarrassing than the last thing you looked at before you went to bed?

Raleigh: No. [laughs]

Sydnee: Like, the last— like, your last google? I can't tell you how many times, like, I've been, the next morning at work, like, in a room with a patient trying to be, like, serious Doctor Sydnee, and I'm like, "Let me get my, uh—" 'cause on my

phone I have, like, my medications apps, like, to check dosing and things like that and stuff. "Let me pull this up. Hold on, let me double check the dosing on this."

And I'll look at my search history and it's, like, in that moment I'm like, "I hope you can't sense... "

Rileigh: "I'm so sorry."

Sydnee: "... who is sitting across from you. [laughs] The disaster of a person that's sitting across from you."

Rileigh: Usually mine is just— I have the horrible habit of spending an entire movie looking up the actors that are in it and where I've seen them before.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Rileigh: And all the accuracies and inaccuracies within the movie. Um, but usually that's just what's pulled up on my phone.

Sydnee: Oh my God.

Rileigh: I know. I know. I suck. I'm the worst.

Sydnee: [laughs wheezily]

Rileigh: It's what our dad does too, so I think I just inherited it from him.

Sydnee: What is that?! What— okay, okay.

Taylor: Yeah. I— I will—

Sydnee: I know the actors thing, but inaccuracies?

Rileigh: Well it's just, like, if I'm watching something and they're talking about, like— like, we just watched *Why Women Kill*, like, the first season of that. Which, if you don't know, it's, like, three different, four different stories of women from, like, different periods in American history and their husbands and their stories and everything, whatever. It's very good.

But one of them is set in, like, the 40's or something, and they were talking about, I don't know, the— the laws and police or whatever, and I was like, "Could you really do that at that time?" I forget exactly what it was about.

Sydnee: Oh.

Rileigh: But I was trying to look up, like, is that accurate? Could you do that then, or would that be allowed then? So I'll look up, like, what was going on in America in 1940-whatever, 50-whatever? Just curious.

Taylor: Yeah. I got Dad to watch *Casa Blanca* with me a while ago and, um, classic piece of, you know, American film.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [laughs] He spent the whole thing, uh, complaining about how nobody finishes their drinks in any scenes. Which is true. If you watch the movie purely paying attention to how many drinks get unfinished or are not consumed, it happens a lot. But, uh, I don't know how you watch that movie and that's your— that's your takeaway.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] That's the— that's the thing you focus on.

Rileigh: This is what I've inherited from our father. Like when someone leaves a door open. I was watching a scary movie the other night and, like, it was a suspenseful moment. She opens the front door thinking there's someone there, and then she turns around and, like, there's someone inside, but she leaves the front door open the whole time. And the whole time this intense encounter is happening I'm like, "But what about the front door? It's gonna get so cold!"
[laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Man.

Sydnee: Uh, you know what's more exciting is that it's Taylor's birthday.

Raleigh: It is Teylor's birthday.

Teylor: That is true.

Sydnee: Happy birthday!

Raleigh: Happy birthday!

Teylor: Thanks! It's another one. Just like the other ones.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Teylor: Just keep— they just keep comin'! They don't stop comin'.

Sydnee: What's the— what's the theme of your birthday?

Teylor: Uhh... I, uh— do birthdays have themes?

Sydnee: Well, my children always theme their birthdays.

Teylor: Well, yeah, I mean, when you're a kid you get, like, the paper plates that match the party hats that match the tablecloth. I get that.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Teylor: But I don't— I think at some point... you stop that, right?

Sydnee: I mean, you don't have to.

Raleigh: I just had a Taylor Swift-themed birthday.

Teylor: That's very good.

Sydnee: See, look. Raleigh has themes.

Teylor: Yeah, but it's still kind of, you know, quarantine times. So, like, the idea of going to the— the dollar store and buying some, like, Spider-Man paper plates and some banners and sitting alone with my cat... [laughs]

Raleigh: So it would be Spider-Man, is what you're saying.

Taylor: Well, absolutely, yeah.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Obviously.

Taylor: I know. I know what it would be. I'm just not indulging myself.

Sydnee: [laughs] Obviously it would be Spider-Man, but... well, I mean, Spider-Man's a good theme. That's a— that's a great cake opportunity. You could have a little Spider-Man sort of, like, hanging off the side of it somewhere.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I like that.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You could have three Spider-Mens.

Raleigh: All at the same time.

Sydnee: You know?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it could be a timely Spider-Men cake.

Raleigh: That's canon now, mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Or you could work it to get three cakes, 'cause...

Raleigh: [gasps]

Sydnee: Hmm.

Taylor: ... you gotta represent the Spider-Verse.

Sydnee: Ohh...

Raleigh: Like, a three-tiered cake.

Sydnee: I love that.

Taylor: There you go.

Sydnee: You know, it would be interesting, though, some day if we find out who Spider-Man is.

Raleigh: [snorts] Sorry, what?

Taylor: Oh, right, right, right. She's— she's—

Raleigh: Oh, okay. Sorry.

Taylor: She's doin' a— she's doin' a— a gag.

Raleigh: She's doin' a bit.

Sydnee: It's a gag.

Raleigh: It's a bit. Okay.

Sydnee: It's a bit.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: Maybe some day.

Raleigh: Yeah, I wish we would, some day... find out who Spider-Man is.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Me—

Sydnee: Taylor, is it you?

Taylor: I mean, I live in New York. There's that.

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Raleigh: That's the only requirement.

Sydnee: And you're the only one who does!

Taylor: Uhh... [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I, uh— I... I... I know spiders. Know 'em. I know some... spiders.

Raleigh: You know them?

Taylor: I know 'em.

Sydnee: You're— you do like spiders a lot.

Taylor: I do. They live— I let them live in my house. We have a very... complementary relationship.

Sydnee: You're very strong.

Taylor: Mm-hmm, yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I'm not saying I *am* Spider-Man, but I'm not saying I'm not.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Hmm...

Sydnee: That's very exciting.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: I'm—

Raleigh: I didn't know we were related to Spider-Man.

Sydnee: I know!

Taylor: But, I mean— but I don't— that— the more you understand about the Spider-Verse, the less exciting that is, 'cause there's a lot of spider... mm, somethings. You know?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: There's spider...

Raleigh: Spiders. [laughs]

Sydnee: There's a Spider-Pig.

Taylor: Maybe Spider-Men. Spider-Pig. Spider-Gwen. Spider... there's the big... the big, mean spider. That's Venom, but he's still kind of a spider guy.

Sydnee: There's the one who wears sweatpants.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah. Spider B. Parker-Man.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: That's Nick Miller.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] That is Nick Miller.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs] Canonically Nick Miller.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yes, obviously, that Spider-Man.

Raleigh: Which does make sense.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's fine. It's no *Doctor Strange*, though. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [sighs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: You have a thing for Benedict Cumberbatch.

Sydnee: I do. I do. God help me, I do.

Taylor: I just can't— to look at the entire MCU and be like, "*Doctor Strange*, though."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: "That's the one." That's a choice, Syd.

Raleigh: That is a choice. [laughs]

Sydnee: I like, uh, that he's kind of arrogant. You know?

Taylor: Okay, Loki is right there.

Raleigh: Do you like that he's arrogant, but also a doctor?

[pause]

Sydnee: Yes, I like—

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: —that he's a doctor, and he's arrogant, and... I don't know.

Raleigh: That's it. [laughs]

Sydnee: He can do magic? Like, that's fun.

Rileigh: He does his arm in that big circle and makes— makes you— takes you to other places. [laughs]

Sydnee: No. I mean, I— I definitely— like, I see the appeal of Loki, too. I'd take Loki over Thor.

Rileigh: Interesting.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: Well, I'm just saying. I mean, I have nothing against Thor. Just, like, you know. If we're gonna start stackin' 'em all up.

[all laugh quietly]

Sydnee: I don't know!

Taylor: [simultaneously] I mean, I think—

Rileigh: Loki and Doctor Strange.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: If we're gonna start stacking them up, it's probably better to take Loki over Thor, 'cause I don't think Loki could lift Thor. You'd have to put...

Rileigh: [sarcastically] Ha, ha.

Sydnee: [sarcastically] Ha, ha, ha, ha. Oh, all these jokes!

Rileigh: All these jokes.

Sydnee: We're just— we're just full of it today, aren't we? We're—

Rileigh: These goofs!

Taylor: Hey, I— I donated blood this morning, alright? I'm— I'm on my—[laughs] I used up all my A material with my A+ blood. [laughs]

Sydnee: You donated blood on your birthday. What a— what a trooper.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well, they give—

Rileigh: A real Spider-Man.

Taylor: —they give you a key chain now with your blood type on it as a reward.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: So I have this little— but for me it feels nice 'cause I'm A+, so I have this little key chain that just says "A-plus," and I just feel like I just... I aced... having blood today.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. That— yes. I understand that feeling. I've always been very proud of having A+ blood, 'cause I have A-plus blood.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Best blood. A-plus blood.

Taylor: That would make sense... for you to feel that way. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [snorts]

Rileigh: I don't know what kind of blood I have, but I figure it's that kind.

Sydnee: A-plus blood?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Could be.

Rileigh: I better— I don't wanna be the only one with... less than superior blood!

Sydnee: I don't know Mom or Dad's blood types. I mean, I could do, like, some Punnet Square action and figure out what they might be but, like, I don't actually know what they are.

Rileigh: Well, I know how to do a Punnet Square—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: —but I don't know what Mom and Dad's are.

Sydnee: Well, I don't know what theirs are. We could come up with some possibilities. That seems boring. But I don't know your blood type, either.

Taylor: I think they're A and O, because forever I thought I was O 'cause Mom told me I was O—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: —and then when I started donating blood they were like, "No, you're not. [laughs] It's not—"

Sydnee: That— this feels—

Rileigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: —this all feels on brand.

[all laugh]

Taylor: 'Cause O is, like, "I'm the universal donor. I give to all. I'm O." And I was like, "Oh, okay. That's— sure, Mom. That's— that's—" 'cause that's— I think that's what Mom is, and was like, "Yeah, you are too."

No, you're—I mean—but then again, maybe she's not actually.

Rileigh: Or is that just what Mom said she is, too?

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Who knows?

Rileigh: Who knows.

Sydnee: It's not easy, I'll tell you. It's a good reason to go donate blood, 'cause then you find out your blood type.

Rileigh: Yeah, I have no idea.

Taylor: What if—

Sydnee: I mean, it's not— it's not like something— I've had patients ask me that before. Like, "What's my blood type?"

And I'm like, "I don't know. I don't— I mean, we could try to find out," but then it's like, I don't know— and this is different country-to-country— in the American medical system, to just bill to, like, "I checked someone's blood type 'cause they wanted to know," I don't know that that would get covered. [laughs] So you'd get a bill for it!

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: That's a good reason to go donate blood.

Taylor: That's wild. I feel bad, though, for the— 'cause the key chains don't say, like, "My blood type is this, and I donate blood." Like, they just have the letter on it.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: So what about, like, the B-neg— like, the B people that just have a little... B— B-ne— B-.

Sydnee: B-.

Rileigh: B-.

Taylor: I feel— I feel bad for them! [laughs]

Sydnee: "Oh, me? I'm a B-." [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: You know, not bad! Not bad

Raleigh: Not bad.

Sydnee: Like, a— a B-. Not the worst. [laughs] Still above average.

Taylor: See, I think they need to clarify something on the key chain there, just to not make anybody feel bad.

Sydnee: We need to talk about your movie, Raleigh.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: And not blood types.

Raleigh: Not bloods.

Taylor: No, sorry.

Sydnee: No more bloods.

Raleigh: [sighs] Um—

Sydnee: No, you don't have to be sorry. You gave blood. You're a hero... Spider-Man.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Spider-Man. [laughs quietly] Um, we're also not talking about Spider-Man. Um, we're talking about *La La Land*... the film.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: The musical film.

Sydnee: The musical film.

Rileigh: Of the year 2016, starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone.

Sydnee: That almost won an Oscar.

Rileigh: Almost—[laughs quietly]

Taylor: Woof.

Rileigh: That was one of those Miss Universe moments.

Sydnee: Oof. That was rough.

Rileigh: Man.

Sydnee: That was so rough.

Rileigh: [sighs] Yeah. Also the moment where one of the producers or directors of the film is the one to stand up and be like, "Actually we didn't—[laughs] we didn't win. It was *Moonlight*. Oops!"

Sydnee: "Oops. Sorry 'bout that."

Rileigh: "Sorry 'bout it." Um... yeah, it is a very good film, though.

Sydnee: It is. It is. I had never seen it. I don't know why. I like musicals, you know?

Rileigh: This one's a very musical musical.

Sydnee: I always like Emma Stone. I think she's great.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. Um, if you have not seen *La La Land*, which— saying it came out in 2016 and then following that up by saying that was six years ago, that feels bad, coming out of my mouth. Um, but if you haven't seen it, it's just about Mia and, um—

Sydnee: Seb.

Rileigh: —Sebastian, yes, Seb, who— Mia is an aspiring actress and Sebastian wants to be a jazz musician. They both live in LA, and they're both trying to be famous, and then they fall in love. And, spoiler alert, then they fall out of love, kind of, and break up.

Sydnee: Yeah, so sad.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yes. Yeah. One of the only love stories to not have the, you know... well, I shouldn't say one of the only... one of the only, like, major, big, popular love story movies where they don't actually end up together, but also they both end up happy... question mark?

Sydnee: Yeah. I guess that's true. 'Cause I was gonna say, you mentioned *Casa Blanca*.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: *Gone with the Wind*.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: What's in—

Sydnee: But the happiness is a question.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, it's— it's not like— like, *Casa Blanca* it's like circumstances are why they can't be together, but they love each other, but the circumstances are just wrong. In this movie it was very clear, like, they just kind of— it was a mutual— sad, but a mutual understanding that this is... the right thing to do.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: It is an interesting story to see that, that it's like, they could have made it work if they really wanted to, but ultimately they decided it wasn't the thing that they wanted.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah. Um, and it just has great musical numbers.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Um, I also— I don't know if you all noticed. One of my favorite things about this film is that a lot of the scenes, and especially the musical numbers, are shot in, like, one shot.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Raleigh: Like, "Someone in the Crowd" when they're starting and it's Mia and all her roommates, and they're singing about going out to this party in LA and, like, someone in the crowd could be the one that you need to know to, like, make you famous, basically. Um, uh, it's— they're moving through their house as they're getting ready, and up until— like, the first half of the song up until they leave their apartment is just one shot, like, moving through the different rooms and following them around.

Sydnee: I guess it is. That didn't occur to me that it was at the time, but yeah.

Taylor: I really enjoyed that number, and that— that element of it is so cool. Uh, but also, when she comes back to her apartment and it's just— first it's just her there and she walks through that beautiful apartment and flops down in her room I'm like, "Oh, okay. Impractically large apartment for a out-of-work actress in LA." And then when, like, three roommates show up I'm like, "Ohh, alright, yes!"
[laughs]

Raleigh: Okay!

Taylor: That's realistic.

Sydnee: That makes more sense!

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, I love— it's a very visually beautiful movie. I was thinking about how often they use, like, costuming for, like, solid color. Like, you know? Everybody's sort of, like, dressed in these blocks of color, and then that's all interacting in the dance numbers. Um, I find it very visually appealing.

Rileigh: Yeah. Those, uh— those blocks of color, especially in the very opening number, and then again in "Someone in the Crowd," um, everyone's wearing, like, one solid color that is their color, and it just looks... looks so good.

Taylor: Well, I don't know how much of this is... maybe it's just because of the— the sort of tonal shift in the movie, but I felt like it started so high saturation and so, like, color-blocked, and as the movie goes along, as things become a little bit more in the real world, it kind of desaturates at parts, you know?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, yeah.

Taylor: I thought that was interesting.

Rileigh: Yeah, um—

Sydnee: Yeah, that's— that is true.

Rileigh: Yeah. I really like that the first— well, one of the first you see Mia wearing is, like, first she's wearing, like, a bright royal blue, and then the bright yellow, which is, like, the classic dress from, like, the poster and everything.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Um, but then by the end when she does that final audition, she's wearing, like, a very muted blue. And in the very last scene you see her in, when she sees Seb at the club it's black that she's wearing. So it's almost like, you know... it does fade out, become less bright, less colorful.

Sydnee: That's so sad, though.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. Those colors. They're subliminal— subliminal messages through colors in films.

Sydnee: It reminded me of, um... when I made you all read the book *Weetzie Bat*.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs]

[pause]

Sydnee: [laughs] Why are you laughing? What's that look?

Raleigh: I just remember when you made us read a book.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It was a short book!

Raleigh: You still made us read a book. [laughs]

Sydnee: It's a short book! It's a good book!

Taylor: It was a very short book.

Sydnee: You both said you liked it!

Taylor: We did.

Raleigh: Yeah, but I still— you just made us read a book.

Taylor: Well, I make us read comic books sometimes.

Raleigh: Well, that's...

Sydnee: Yeah!

Raleigh: ... more fun.

Sydnee: [scoffs]

Raleigh: There's more to look at.

Sydnee: I just thought— I just thought there were parallels, especially— in the book *Weetzie Bat* they talk about making a movie about LA where, like, it's this sort of dreamscape where it's all, like, you know, candy-colored, like, flashy, beautiful, singing and dancing...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ... like, Hollywood. And then you sort of wake up into the reality and it— like at the end— that, the end of the movie's in black and white. But, like, you know, same idea.

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah. I, uh— it makes me wonder how much of it— 'cause, I mean, I've never been to LA and obviously don't live in LA. Um, it makes me wonder how much of it is accurate in terms of living as, like, an aspiring actor, actress in LA. Because there were some things that feel like they must be very, like, specific... events or memories that someone has had. Like when she goes to that casting call and she walks out of the room after she feels like she bombed the audition and every other girl out there waiting has, like, the same red hair and is wearing the same exact outfit, um, and looks just like her. Like, I feel like that has to be, like... a realistic scenario. Um, or like directors just cutting you off after, like, two words in an audition or something like that.

Sydnee: Yeah, I would think. I mean, I think it's very much— you know, you see movies where they talk about, like, the setting as a character in the film. New York is most often the place where they'll say that. Like, New York is a character.

Sex and the City, they keep saying that, 'cause everybody's writing articles about *Sex and the City* again. You know? And I think that, um... in this one, LA is very much a character. It is part of it. And I'm sure it's written by people— it's kind of like a love letter, sort of. Like a bittersweet love letter to LA.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And what that is.

Rileigh: Yeah. 'Cause, I mean, they both start out in jobs that they don't want, that aren't what they want to do, that don't make them happy. And then by the end, they're both doing what they wanted to do. So, I mean, they both have found success in LA and in their fields by the end, but also it was not... you're right. It's, like, bittersweet. Like, it sucked for a while, but also, you know... dreams.

Sydnee: But that's what happens to everybody who goes to LA, right?

Rileigh: Yep.

Sydnee: They get famous.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Every single one!

Sydnee: And live out their dreams. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Every single person.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Although now I feel like it's more common for the people moving to LA, it's less of the, like, Mia types of, like, wanting to be an actress, so you move so you can just start auditioning for things, and more of like the influencers that become TikTok famous...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. Yeah.

Rileigh: ... Instagram famous and YouTube famous, that wanna move to LA so they can all make videos together? Like, that feels like... like, so many— so many 16, 17-year-olds I see online just moving to LA with all their social media money.

Taylor: Well, like, all of the, uh— all the parties that she's going to where there are just all these beautiful people in these beautiful houses. I think if I didn't have friends that live in LA and are, you know— live that life, and they're just normal people, they're like, yeah, that's just what— there are always these parties that

are usually influencer parties and, you know, they're very nice and they're very fancy, but they're also just desperate attempts to meet people that can get you somewhere. So it's like, that part, I think I would've said "No, that can't be what the lifestyle's like." You're at a beautiful pool in the mountains every weekend." But no, I guess you are. But just, there's an unfortunate wrapping around it of you're desperate for work.

Sydnee: But can anybody go to those?

Taylor: You gotta know somebody.

Sydnee: Like, if you're attractive?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And know somebody.

Sydnee: If you know somebody and you're attractive? That was the vibe I got. Like, why are these— her and her housemates. None of them we are supposed to believe are particularly successful yet. Like, they might be later, but right now they're struggling.

And they get invited to this party, which looks like it's full of rich, famous people.

Raleigh: They have to know somebody.

Sydnee: They're also— they're also very attractive, and it seemed like— is that— is that part of it?

Raleigh: I mean, probably.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know.

Taylor: It's just—

Raleigh: Also, everyone in this movie is just, like, conventionally attractive.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, that's true. That's very— it's a— yes.

Rileigh: Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone are the two main characters. [laughs]
Like...

Sydnee: [laughs] I mean, if Ryan Gosling is your thing. [laughs]

Taylor: I— I think it's— any— I think—

Sydnee: I'm joking!

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Ryan Gosling does a—

Sydnee: I just mean 'cause... [laughs quietly]

Taylor: He does a really good job of making you think he's a normal guy until you take a second. You'll be like, "No, no, no. He's— he's absolutely stunning." Like, 'cause he plays a lot of roles of these kind of, like... you know, he's not like the big, heroic lead. A lot of times he's sort of like a— an outcast, or bit of an antihero-type character. But it's like, it's still Ryan Gosling, and he's still absolutely dreamy. [laughs]

Sydnee: Absolutely, yeah.

Rileigh: Yes. Even in that scene where they're at that pool party, and he's wearing that, like, 80's jumpsuit-type fit with the keytar. Even then he looks great.

Sydnee: Well, and I wonder— I wondered if that's why they make him kind of prickly.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Is, like, because otherwise this guy would not have trouble succeeding.

Rileigh: No, and he would not be single. [laughs]

Sydnee: He's— he's talented, and he looks like that. Like, what— what is the deal, here? Well, he's very— he's difficult. [wheezes]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, I love the subtleties of, like— the— the dialogues. And specifically with some of the language he uses. He uses a lot of kind of... sort of outdated terms, you know? He kind of speaks— like, there's a little bit of a nuance of, like, a— it does feel like a 20's or 30's movie character, you know? Like a tough guy.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: And I like that they kind of work that in, because even though it's set in, like, modern times, he's still kind of playing that archetype. And to a certain extent, she is too, as this young ingenue, you know, who's kind of starry-eyed and dreamy.

Raleigh: I also do, though— I was thinking about this while watching it again for this, because I've seen this movie so many times. Obviously this is set in modern day... just based off the assumption that, like, there's nothing to suggest that it's not, in, like, the cars that they're driving and stuff. But also, technology and stuff does not play, like, a big role. Like, you don't really see anyone on, like, an iPhone or anything like that. Um, constantly. Like, it's not a big part of it. So I like that it almost feels a little bit timeless. Like, if it weren't for tiny things like the fact that she, like, I don't know, everyone drives a Prius, you know, like stuff like that.

Sydnee: Right.

Raleigh: Like, it would feel like this could be a story at any time in Hollywood.

Sydnee: But it did feel weird, though. I noticed that too. It stood out to me when she almost stands him up for the movie date. 'Cause I kept thinking, like, "Why wouldn't she just text him?"

Raleigh: Text him, mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And just say, like, "Listen, my drab, loser boyfriend [laughs] who I hate so much, he arranged this dinner. I have to go out with him, but I'm gonna break up with him after, don't worry." [laughs] Like, something.

Rileigh: Yeah, like, why didn't— yeah, why did they make plans and not exchange phone numbers? Like, why were they not texting beforehand?

Sydnee: Nobody has ever suffered at a nice dinner as much she does in that scene. [laughs] I was thinking, like, "At least eat the din— the dinner looks g— it looks like they have good food. At least eat the dinner." [laughs]

Rileigh: And she's not paying for it.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: It's free good food!

Taylor: You know, there is no subtlety in making sure that those characters at the table were supposed to just come off as awful. 'Cause, like, every c—

Sydnee: Yes!

Taylor: —the conversation they are having is just... it's not realistic dialogue, but I enjoyed the, like, "Now, we really want you to know these people suck." [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: They're t— don't feel bad for any of them when she runs way.

Taylor: Yep. Yep.

Rileigh: Man, I forget every time after I watch this that she starts this film with a boyfriend. That's how, like, forgettable and awful they make those characters, is I just completely— I forget.

Sydnee: I didn't even know when she was first talking about him. Like, "Who's Greg?"

Rileigh: [laughs] "Who's Greg?"

Sydnee: "Who's Gre— oh. Okay, I get it now."

Taylor: Which is—

Raleigh: It's Dandy from *American Horror Story*. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: I was gonna say, is that Finn Wintruck? Is that his name? Win... something?

Raleigh: Yes?

Taylor: He's a really good actor. And also—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: —you know, like, very—I mean, very talented, very attractive. It's funny watching him play, like, the— whate— like, the loser boyfriend. It's like, are you kidding? [laughs] What world are you living in, Emma Stone?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Um, I want to talk more about why you like this movie so much.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

So, my semester has now started again, which means I have gone from having all day to sleep and watch Netflix to having significantly less time to sleep and watch Netflix. And one thing I constantly am worried about when getting back from a long day of class is what I'm going to make for dinner to eat, 'cause usually I don't do a very good job of grocery shopping or keeping track of things I want to make, so I'm very bad at doing all of that. And that is why I use DoorDash so often, because I let them take care of not just, like, my next meal, like a dinner every now and then— most of my meals.

Um, it is the app that brings you food right to your door, and it's so easy. You just open the app, you choose what you want to eat, your food will be left safely outside your door with the next contactless delivery drop off setting, which I think should stay forever. I know this became a big thing with COVID, trying to be safe, you know, limit contact with other people, but I love not having to interact with anyone at any point, just my phone. They send me a picture of where they left it on my porch. I yell out my door as they're getting in their car, "Thank you!" and grab my food and go back inside.

Sydnee: And this is a great way to support local restaurants right now. If you're not feeling so comfortable about going out and eating, you can order their food and still support them, and eat it in the comfort and safety of your own home.

Raleigh: Exactly. So, Tey, if our listeners want to check out DoorDash, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, right now our listeners can get \$5 off their first order of \$15 or more and zero delivery fees for their first month when you download the DoorDash app and enter code "buffering". That's \$5 off your first order and zero delivery fees for a month when you download the DoorDash app in the app store and enter code "buffering". Don't forget! That's code "buffering" for \$5 off your first order with DoorDash.

Sydnee: Uh, it has been tough to get motivated I know for many of us, especially in the new year, to put on pants every day. Why must we wear pants when we leave the house? I'd love— I'd like to not wear pants. Except, I found Betabrand. And once I found Betabrand dress pant yoga pants, I no longer mind that we should wear pants when we leave the house. Uh, because they're just that comfortable. They are dress pants, so you look professional. You look put together. You can go to work. You can go to dinner. You can go pick up your kid from dance class. Whatever you gotta do, you can do it in these dress pants, because people will think "Man, that looks like somebody who's got their life together."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But secretly... they have the fit and flexibility of yoga pants, so you feel comfortable. They're soft, they're comfy, they're stretchy, they're wrinkle-free, so you can move in 'em, you're not itchin' to get 'em off, um, but they look

professional. And they have dozens of colors, patterns, cuts, and styles. They've got boot cut, joggers, cropped, skinny, and they have fun, limited-time prints. So if you don't just want something solid— I usually go for solids. Wear my patterns up top, my solids on the bottom. But if you like some prints on the bottom, they've got those too. Um, and if all that doesn't sound good enough... there's more. They've got pockets!

Raleigh: What?

Sydnee: They're machine washable!

Raleigh: What?!

Sydnee: They have yoga denim!

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Sydnee: Did you even know there was yoga denim?

Raleigh: I didn't know there was until now.

Sydnee: I bet you didn't. There is. It looks like denim, feels like yoga pants. Is there anything better than that? So, Teylor, if our listeners want to check out Betabrand dress pant yoga pants, what should they do?

Teylor: Well, right now get 30% off your Betabrand order when you go to betabrand.com/buffering. That's B-E-T-A brand.com/buffering for 30% off your order for a limited time. Make sure to use our special URL, because it supports our show. Find out why people are buying five different pairs of these pants. Go to betabrand.com/buffering today for 30% off.

Sydnee: So, Raleigh.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Uh, this was a fun movie. I like the music, I like the dancing. It was a little sad. You know me, I like big happy endings. A little sad for me, but overall really enjoyed it. Why is it so special to you?

Rileigh: So, I mean, I love the music. I love a good musical movie, especially musical movies that did not start as a stage musical. I know as a theater kid that sounds like it should be the opposite, but I am of the mindset that we should just leave stage musicals, like, you know... most of the time they're better to be left to the stage. Some musical adaptations into movies don't... don't go as well. Um...

Sydnee: That's true, that's true.

Rileigh: Some of them are very well done.

Sydnee: I wish they could just film them all like they did with Hamilton.

Rileigh: Like Hamilton, that's how I also feel.

Sydnee: Yeah. I just wanna watch that. I wanna watch the filmed on the stage version.

Rileigh: But I mean, like, *In The Heights* was great, the movie version.

Sydnee: Yes, yes.

Rileigh: So it's very hit or miss. Um, but I especially like movies that are written to be films that are also musicals, because I feel like it blends the, you know—bridges the gap between, like, the world of theater and the world of movies when you can make it one without taking from the other.

Um, but also, I like that it, at the end— and yes, it is not a big happy ending in the sense that, like, Mia and Sebastian end up together, but leading up to the very end of the movie, there's the whole, like, musical kind of montage of what their life would've been like if they would've stayed together, because they— in their relationship, after she has this big audition for this big movie role that eventually makes her famous, and then five years later you see her married and she has a kid and she is successful, and he owns the jazz bar that he always wanted to open, but he's also used, like, the logo and the name that she made for him to title the bar that he owns. Um, but even though they're not together, like, at the end of all of it, even though they could've had this good life together, you see that one of them would've been sacrificing at some point if they wanted that relationship. Either he wouldn't have had the time to do all the things he wanted to do, or she wouldn't have had the time to dedicate to her acting career, you know, living in Paris for months and months to do that movie. And at the end

they're both— they smile at each other, you know? She sees him randomly at his jazz bar and he's playing, and... she's successful, and...

Sydnee: Are they both happy?

Raleigh: I think she seems happy. I mean, I don't think you can— I don't think it seems like one of those where it's like, "Oh, she secretly still loves him and she's just with this guy for—" I don't think so.

Sydnee: But then we fantasize about them being together.

Raleigh: Well, do we, or is that just them thinking, like, "Well, we could've, but also would I have everything I have right now?"

[pause]

'Cause that's why— I think that's why LA is so— and that's why it's called *La La Land* and, like, that's why LA is so important, 'cause that's why they're both there is to follow the dreams that they want and the career that they want, and at the end of it they both have that.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Um, but they're just not together.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I think that last sequence, it also goes along with him playing, like, a... a jazz piece.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And sort of plays— like, you know, he teaches her a real love and respect for jazz, which is sort of, you know, this idea that things are just kind of happening all— it's not pre-planned. Things are just evolving as the song goes along, and it becomes something unique and beautiful, but not necessarily what you set out for. And so that whole fantasy kind of goes along with that piece that he's playing, and then it ends, and they're back in, you know, the path that— that did work out for them, where they did end up. Which I think is kind of a cool,

like... something can be really important to you and move you to a new stage in your life and not necessarily be forever, not necessarily be permanent, you know?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Well, I mean, I just... their relationship also was less than a year. They use, like, the seasons to kind of bookmark all the events. Um, and it's— it's one course of seasons basically from the time that they meet to the time that they're breaking up. So they didn't have this, like, super long, intense romance, and he was gone for a lot of it because he was on the road, you know, with his group. Um, and I— I don't know. I like the idea that we can show in movies that you can meet someone and love them and have a good relationship with them, and have it not work out but still be okay, and either— for Mia it was finding someone else and being in love and having her career, or for Sebastian it was, you know... having his club.

Sydnee: So if you think— if you would say that about a year is not a particularly long relationship...

Taylor: [laughs breathlessly]

Sydnee: ... then three months certainly—

Taylor: [hoarsely] Wait, they were [unintelligible]—[laughs]

Sydnee: If someone were to, say, be so devastated—

Rileigh: Oh my God.

Sydnee: —after a three-month relationship ended... [laughs]

Rileigh: Oh my God.

Sydnee: ... and they made a song about it... [laughs]

Rileigh: There are several differences that I'm going list—

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Rileigh: —right now. Several differences. One—

Sydnee: Perhaps made a short film—

Rileigh: No!

Sydnee: —about. [laughs]

Rileigh: No. Listen. One, we don't know how devastated Mia and Sebastian were right after that breakup, immediately after, because we see them in their relationship, and the next time we see them is five years later.

Sydnee: Uh-huh, uh-huh?

Rileigh: Okay? Two... Mia and Sebastian are both adults in their late twenties.

Sydnee: [clicks tongue] Okay, okay.

Rileigh: Taylor Swift was 19!

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: When you're 19 you have bigger emotions.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Than when you're in your late twenties and when you are in your—

Taylor: When you die inside.

Rileigh: —when you're in your first, like, real relationship ever. That's very different than if you've been dating people for a long time.

Sydnee: It's like human years and dog years.

Rileigh: Yes.

Taylor: Sydnee, don't— don't poke the Swiftie. You know this. [laughs]

Sydnee: I know. It was too much. It was just too fun.

Raleigh: There's no need.

Sydnee: It was too fun. Sorry. Uh... [laughs] can I tell you, though, that one of my nightmares— and, I mean, I'm not— I'm settled. I'm not gonna date anybody. But in my dating days, one of my nightmares would have been someone looking at me and saying, "Oh, you don't like jazz? Ugh, I'm gonna teach you to love jazz."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "Sit down and I'm gonna play jazz for you." That's like— that's when I run out the door. That's when I go, "Listen. You seem like an amazing—" no matter how great they are— "amazing person. If you're gonna make me listen to jazz I'm out." Nothing against you if you love jazz. I just personally... don't.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I feel like that's just one of those opinions that people have because it's a common opinion to have. But have you ever, like, listened to jazz? Or, like, gone to a club and, like, watched people play it? It's—

Sydnee: Are you gonna— are— are you gonna try to make me love jazz?

Taylor: No, I'm not—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [crosstalk]

Raleigh: Are you Ryan Gosling-ing it right now?

Taylor: I'm not— I'm not trying to sell you on jazz. That is definitely— if you like it or you don't, that's fine, but people that have really strong hateful opinions about jazz, like "[gruffly] I could never!" It's like... I mean, it's... it's just like any other type of music. There's stuff that's really enjoyable. There's stuff that's not. There's a lot of really important musicians that that was their format. But also if you've ever been to, like, a good jazz club, I don't think it matters what they're playing. It's cool. Like...

Rileigh: I think—

Sydnee: I—

Taylor: It's cool to see people doing that on stage.

Sydnee: Oh, I respect the talent and the ability to do that. No, I fully recognize that, and it is very cool. I agree with you, it's very cool. You know how she says that it— she always thought it was the thing you had on in the background?

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: For me, it's the opposite. When jazz is playing, it's like somebody's banging pots and pans inside my brain. It's so—

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: —it activates too many neurons at once. It makes me feel like I'm— I'm about to freak out or something. I don't know. There's something about— 'cause Justin used to do that sometimes and I would find myself sitting there going, like, "I'm breathing fast. Why am I freaking out? Why do I feel like I'm about to lose it?"

And then it would hit me. Like, it's the jazz! The jazz is doing it! It does not chill me out! It— it, like, puts me on edge. It makes me feel like "[frantically] I've gotta be doing something! I need to do more! There's too much going on!"

Rileigh: I think I agree with what you're saying about if a man or anyone would ever say that to me. Well, I'm gonna say especially a man, 'cause that's a very, like, male thing to do.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Um, but if it came to anything. Like, any genre of music, any, like, genre of film or art or hobby or anything, he is very, like, mansplains when they first meet.

Sydnee: Yes, yes.

Rileigh: And it's almost like, "You know nothing. Let me talk to you like you are so dumb about jazz and let me teach you everything about it, because I know everything, and you are going to love it."

Like, I just don't like that. He's not— I also think that's why it's easy for me to, like, be okay with them not ending up together, is because neither of them are necessarily, like, perfect people.

Sydnee: No, that's true.

Rileigh: And neither of them are perfect for each other in a lot of ways.

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Like, it's obvious they have many problems. I mean, he is very arrogant and prickly, like you said, and mansplaining. She is... I don't know. I... she's not as, like, flawed of a character in the way that they paint them out to be, but she also gave up very quickly and just kind of left.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: On them and on her career. So I don't know, neither of them—they're both flawed characters, but especially him.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I don't know. I think it's just— it's— like... I enjoy when— I think a— and I think it's just— I do agree. It's just different types of people.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And, you know, what's a flaw to somebody isn't to somebody else. But to me it's like, a big important thing in a relationship is, I need to tell you obsessively about the thing that I'm super passionate about, but in return you can tell me obsessively about the thing you're super passionate about.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: And even if I can't love the thing, I'm gonna love that passion. So I think that's the, like— when she love his, like— his old school jazz, and then when he joins the band that plays, like, weird techno jazz and she's so kind of offended by it, I thought that was realistic, 'cause she— maybe she didn't actually love the jazz. She loved his passion for it, and she knew him well enough to know, "No, no, no. That's not what you love. This is the thing you love. I don't know the person that's pretending to love this."

Raleigh: Right, yeah.

Sydney: No, it's like, I love— I don't love cereal the way Justin loves cereal.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydney: But— but I do love—

Raleigh: It's exactly the same thing.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydney: —I do love his passion for cereal. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: No, I— I... yeah. I agree with what you're saying. Like, I could listen to someone I care about talk about something they are passionate about all day, but there's a difference between, like, talking about it because you love talking about it and you just want to share this thing you love with someone else, and I feel like there are moments where his character feels like he feels a duty to, like, educate her.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydney: Well...

Raleigh: It's not so much him talking about this thing he loves because he loves talking about it. It's like, "You need— you need to know about this before we can date."

Taylor: Sure.

Sydney: And that is a very, like... in a lot of films, that's kind of a male trope.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is that, like—

Raleigh: That's why I said men. I feel like that's a man—

Sydnee: That is. And I'm not saying that that's how guys are, but, like, that has been in media for a long time. It reminds me of a *High Fidelity* kind of thing.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, as soon as you start listening to music you like he's gonna tell you, like, "Oh, that's crap! No, here are the be— here. You need to buy this CD, and you've gotta listen to this, and this should be your favorite band—" and, like, that... there was a moment where that was the guy in every film.

Raleigh: There's a difference between me talking nonstop about Taylor Swift because I love her and her music and me sitting you down and saying, "If you don't love Taylor Swift you are an idiot. Let me teach you why you're wrong, and why everything you like isn't as good."

Sydnee: I have an appreciation for a lot of different craft beers.

Raleigh: [wheezes]

Sydnee: Um, Justin likes wine. I don't— I don't think I'm unsophisticated because I don't choose wine, and Justin doesn't say to me, like, "Oh. You just haven't had the right one. Let me make you try 80 different wines until you find the—" you know?

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I— likewise, I don't look at him and say, "I'm gonna make you try all of my bitter IPAs until you appreciate them like I do." [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: No, you're right. Well, it's interesting, because, you know, he ends up alone, but he has his club, but then his club is kind of the visualization of that. Because there's a little bit of a museum element inside his club. [laughs]

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I've not been to, like, a bar that's, like, also, like, a... a museum to the thing that it's themed around.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: There's this stool, and there's a plaque about what it means. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] That's kind of cool, though.

Taylor: Please put on the headphones for the guided tour inside of the jazz club. [laughs]

Sydnee: I mean, that might get me in a jazz club.

Rileigh: If it was a museum?

Sydnee: I love museums.

Rileigh: [sighs] Sydnee.

Sydnee: [laughs] I— I don't— I don't much care for jazz, but I love museums. And I don't— if you—

Taylor: [crosstalk].

Sydnee: If you like jazz, that's fine. This is not, like, me hating on jazz. It's just not my thing.

Taylor: That's—

Raleigh: That's how I also feel about country music. It's just not my thing.

Sydnee: Yes. There are lots of things that are my thing that you might not like.

Raleigh: Sure.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Like you really like museums, and *Grease 2*.

Taylor: Now, who doesn't like museums?

Sydnee: Museums are great!

Raleigh: I like museums, but I'm not as crazy about museums that I'm gonna say that could get me into a jazz club if you made a museum.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I wanna go to museums about things I'm interested in.

Sydnee: I'll go to museums about anything. Then I'll know about it! Then I can tell people about it.

Taylor: I just like that in the ranking of things that Sydnee thinks are cool, jazz clubs are below museums significantly. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. [laughs] They're definitely— I—

Taylor: Just, what? I really— I'm— and I'm asking in earnest. When have you been to a jazz club?

Sydnee: One time. No, this is true. I have one time.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: Yes. Uh, in New York!

Taylor: Oh!

Sydnee: We were visiting our cousin, who lived there at the time. And she worked at a jazz club.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: And... she took us there.

Raleigh: I have not, so I'm not going to make any strong comments.

Sydnee: The dessert I had was delicious.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: And I—

Raleigh: There you go.

Sydnee: —it's not— it's just that— I just— I don't...

Raleigh: Good dessert or museums will get Sydnee in the door of a jazz club.

Sydnee: And I am certain that the jazz was high quality. I have no doubt that it was very, like... objectively excellent jazz.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I have no doubt about that.

Taylor: And I've got, like— I should— I should also clarify, like, I don't— I'm not going to bat for jazz because I love it. I just... you know.

Sydnee: I didn't know you loved jazz. [wheezes]

Taylor: I— I don't love jazz! I—

Raleigh: Tey appreciates it as, like, an art form, I think.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well, I gue— maybe— I feel like most things that people are passionate about, there's probably a lot of good reasons. Like, in the art world and the, you know, genre of music, there's reason that they are passionate about that, and I think that's cool. Even if it's not the thing that, you know, I collect or obsess over. Like... it's—

Sydnee: Absolutely.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: No, and I— again, I do think, like— I know enough— I am not a musician. I have attempted to play the piano enough times to know how incredibly talented jazz musicians are. I mean, just amazingly talented.

Taylor: I know this is always movie magic, probably, but is Ryan Gosling actually playing the piano? Did he learn the piano for this? [laughs]

Raleigh: I— I think I read— let me look that up again.

Taylor: He seems like the kind of dude that would.

Sydnee: It sure looks like it.

Raleigh: I'm pretty sure he did learn how to play the piano.

Sydnee: It really looks like it.

Taylor: Like, the producer's like, "No, no, no. We don't need you to do that."

He's like, "But I did, though. I did."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. He plays all the piano music onscreen after intensive training. He learned jazz piano in three months.

Sydnee: Wow!

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: In three months?!

Raleigh: That's what it says.

Taylor: It— it's funny that— you know, so that you feel like the ending might be a little sad because— I mean, I thought that Emma Stone's character got— that seemed to be an ending she was happy with. But I also thought his ending was pretty awesome. Like, I looked at his life and I'm like, "I'd take that. You own the club you wanna own, you've got a beautiful apartment that you make yourself big, fancy breakfasts in. Like, you've got a cool car. What are you missing?"

Raleigh: He gets to play jazz, his jazz, whenever he wants, as *his* club.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: What's— I don't know.

Raleigh: I like that it shows that you can—

Sydnee: I just like love stories.

Raleigh: I know, but he loves his work, and he loves his art form.

Taylor: That is his love story.

Raleigh: That's what he loves most, and that's what made it so his relationship with Mia wasn't always equals, because he loved the jazz as much as he loved her. But now he gets to devote his life to the jazz!

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] To the jazz.

Taylor: "It's not you, it's the jazz, baby." [laughs]

Raleigh: "It's not you, it's the jazz!" [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't— I mean, I— I don't think it's a sad film. I'm not saying, like, "Oh, it's so sad. I can't watch it. It's heartbreaking." It just, you know.

Raleigh: I just think it's important that especially, like, younger people— I don't mean like kids, I mean like people around my age, like in your early twenties when you are, like, dating people and trying to, like, find the person you want to be with forever, I like that there's representation of stories that don't always end perfectly that make you feel like you have to find that, like, perfect story with the first, you know, serious relationship you get into when you're in, like, your twenties.

Sydnee: Yeah. I mean, there's definitely something to be said that you learn and grow from someone even if you don't end up...

Raleigh: Exactly.

Taylor: Well, I think that's— 'cause it's such a common feeling, especially if you get out of a long relationship. Like, "Oh, that just— I wasted all that time."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: "I spent all that time trying to invest in that person and now they're gone. Like, I'm starting back at zero." And the movie, just as you said, like, it's a good reminder of, you're not where you started.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Time spent learning about yourself, and how you love, and how you are in a relationship, they all lead into your future.

Raleigh: Yeah. And they both say "I'm always gonna love you." They still have love for each other, but they don't say "I'm always going to be *in* love you." Like, the both acknowledge that, like, that part of that relationship was over, but

they're always going to, like, care for that person, 'cause they were in their life. I like that.

[pause]

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: That's all.

Sydnee: That's all.

Raleigh: That's all.

Sydnee: Well, I mean—

Raleigh: Well, thank you all for watching this movie... with me.

Sydnee: Well, it was good. I really enjoyed it. I don't know why I didn't... it would've been— I was thinking about when it came out at the end of 2016, and it probably would've been a nice escape. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Back then.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I probably needed it then. It was still a nice escape.

Raleigh: I didn't watch it for the first time until, like, three years after it had come out, to be fair. So...

Sydnee: Well, it's a beautiful movie. It's really— I mean, the music the dancing—

Raleigh: The music is great.

Sydnee: —and it's— you know. And again, the ending doesn't ruin it for me. I just... I don't know.

Raleigh: I know.

Taylor: And all that good jazz music in it.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well—

Raleigh: And John Legend?

Taylor: Yeah! John Legend.

Sydnee: John Legend's there, yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: To be fair, I thought that the techno jazz was pretty cool. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I did too. I would go to that concert.

Taylor: [through laughter] I really liked it.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I would see that.

Taylor: That was really good music. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah, I don't know. I don't think it's gonna turn me around on jazz.

Raleigh: That's okay.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] But that is not me— I don't wanna get a bunch of angry emails from jazz lovers. I hope— I am thrilled for you that you like jazz. [laughs quietly] And I hope you continue you enjoy it.

Rileigh: Sydnee likes *Grease 2*. She cannot criticize any form of art that anyone likes. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: No. No, I mean, we all have our weird thing. I collect old medicine bottles, so, you know.

Rileigh: There you go. [snorts]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I don't think— it's not even about criticize. It's like, like what you like. It's fine if you don't like it. But, you know, that's...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yeah. I have no— I—[laughs quietly]

Taylor: It's fine that you like *Grease 2*. That's fine too, you know.

Rileigh: Well...

[pause]

Sydnee: I—

Taylor: [stammers]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Come on. Come on. [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs] Um, Sydnee, what's next?

Sydnee: Oh, that's right, it is my turn.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I decided on something. And then— okay, now I've remembered it again. [laughs] I forgot it over the course of our... of our— it was the— it was even talking about jazz that mixed up my brain. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Oh no.

Raleigh: I'm so sorry.

Sydnee: Too many neurons firing.

Taylor: It's like if you, like, drop, like, a... like, you know if you drop... I don't know, what? Like, toothpicks in front of a vampire, because they have to count things.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: You know? It's, like, a good way to distract a vampire. If you're ever— if Sydnee's ever trying to attack you, put on jazz music.

Raleigh: Play jazz. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Her brain will short circuit and she won't be able to function!

Sydnee: It does— well, I mean, it's supposed to be, like, very stimulating to brain. Like, it— like, for, like, you know, creativity and stuff. And, I mean, it does— it stimulates the heck out of my brain.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Um... [laughs quietly] to the point that I feel like it's gonna explode.

Raleigh: Stimulates the *heck* out of my brain.

Sydnee: It really does! Uh, no. I— I'm gonna bring it down a notch. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Oh.

Raleigh: Uh, several... notches.

Sydnee: Yeah. You can join us in being traumatized by *My Girl* the same way I was as a child. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Classic children's movie.

Raleigh: Yep.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Um, I guess I should put that warning on it.

Raleigh: It's sad?

Sydnee: It's sad.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] Warning: it's sad.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: A death occurs. It is sad, so.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know. I feel like everybody knows *My Girl* by now, but anyway. It was important to me as a child, which is wild that I watched it and... [laughs quietly] repeatedly. Anyway. So, that's next week.

Raleigh: Well, alright.

Sydnee: Thank you. Thank you all.

Raleigh: Thank you all.

Taylor: Thank you.

Sydnee: You should check out *La La Land*, if you have not.

Raleigh: Yes. It's on Hulu.

Sydnee: It's beautiful. Singing, dancing, fun, lovely. Emma Stone, Ryan Gosling.

Raleigh: It's got it all.

Sydnee: How can you go wrong? Uh, thank you to our listeners. You should go to Maximumfun.org and check out a lot of great, uh, shows that you would enjoy. Um, you can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[theme music plays in the background]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

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

Sydnee: I'm gonna finish my sandwich now.

Raleigh: Oh, good. I'm glad you get to.

Sydnee: I'm very hungry. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I'm glad you get your sandwich.

Sydnee: Happy birthday, Tey!

Raleigh: Happy birthday!

Taylor: Maybe I'll get a sandwich.

Raleigh: Ooh!

Sydnee: I sent you a sandwich in the mail.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Aww, you shouldn't have. You shouldn't have.

Sydnee: It's gonna be sticky!

Raleigh: [laughs]

[theme music ends]

Jordan: You're in the theater. The lights go down. You're about to get swept up by the characters and all their little details and interpersonal dramas. You look at them and think, "That person is so obviously in love with their best friend. Wait, am *I* in love with my best friend? That character's mom is *so* overbearing. Why doesn't she stand up to her? Oh *God*, do I need to stand up to *my* own mother?"

If you've ever recognized yourself in a movie then join me, Jordan Crucchiola, for the podcast *Feeling Seen*.

We've talked to author Susan Orlean on realizing her own marriage was falling apart after watching *Adaptation*, an adaptation of her own work, and comedian Hari Kondabolu on why *Harold and Kumar* was a depressingly important movie for Southeast Asians.

So, join me every Thursday for the *Feeling Seen* podcast, here on Maximum Fun.

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