

## Still Buffering 299: "Camp Rock" (2008)

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**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:** Uh, so first of all I just want you both to admit that you were wrong and I was right.

**Taylor:** Oh, I know—

**Sydnee:** About... about *Grease 2*. Because... Andrew Garfield—

**Rileigh:** Oh, God.

**Sydnee:** —made— was being interviewed, and like, in a video talks about how great *Grease 2* is, how the music is so great, references, like, the exact same scene with Michelle Pfeiffer on that ladder, which is just, like, incredible. And, I mean, basically if Andrew Garfield says it was a great movie, then I was right.

**Taylor:** I don't think this is a fair representation of my opinion. I think I had a very nuanced take that was somewhere in between.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** So I would just like— if Andrew Garfield is listening, I would just like it to be clarified that I did not hate the movie.

[pause]

**Rileigh:** I did. [laughs]

**Taylor:** You did. That's—

**Sydnee:** Well, and you were wrong, because Andrew Garfield, star of *tick, tick... BOOM!* and *Spider-Man* is right. So...

**Raleigh:** Well...

**Taylor:** They very best Spider-Man, 'cause he's the middle Spider-Man, and generally the middle things are the best.

**Raleigh:** Now...

**Sydnee:** Hmm, well...

**Raleigh:** Now...

**Sydnee:** I like the old ones. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Now, hold on.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs] The *Empire Strikes Back* of Spider-Men, if you will. I don't know what that means now.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Ah, the most frustrating. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Aww, alright.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um... so, uh, I sent you all a picture before we started recording.

**Raleigh:** Oh, God.

**Sydnee:** And I gave Raleigh some context, but I didn't give you any context, Tey.

**Taylor:** No, you—

**Sydnee:** And I just—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** You sent me a picture that was some sort of Cronenberg situation, nightmarehouse. What— what is that?

**Sydnee:** Uh, this morning I was running out the door to go to Harmony House, and I grabbed my usual breakfast, which is [laughs quietly] Diet Dr. Pepper and a Cutie, the little oranges that are called Cuties.

**Raleigh:** A well balanced breakfast.

**Taylor:** You gotta work on that, but okay, moving on. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** From the resident physician. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I try—[laughs quietly] I try to just drink...

**Taylor:** Hey, doc?

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I try to just drink two cups of coffee and not soda in the morning, but I didn't get my second cup of coffee, and I didn't want to travel with coffee. It was a whole thing.

**Raleigh:** Oh my God.

**Sydnee:** So I drank a soda. But the point is, I got the Cutie out of the fridge, and I noticed it had a tiny hole in the top. And I thought, well, I mean, sometimes the girls are, like, messing with things. They might have been holding it. I don't know. I— you know?

**Raleigh:** You were fine with eating something their dirty fingers had been jabbed into.

**Sydnee:** That's most of the things in my house, so yes. [laughs quietly] So I get— I drive to Harmony House, and I get parked and pay the meter. And before I go in, I think I'm gonna treat myself real quick in my car to this Cutie. I'm gonna have a little private me moment [laughs quietly] where I eat my Cutie. And I peel and then I open it up, and right in the middle of my Cutie is a goldfish cracker.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** A perfectly preserved—

**Rileigh:** Perfectly preserved?

**Sydnee:** —like, goldfish cracker. I mean, it was a little mushy once I touched it. Like, it doesn't look that way in the picture. Like, once you touch it it kind of, like, disintegrates. But that's what— so Charlie had taken this Cutie to school, decided she didn't wanna eat it, but she did want to poke a hole in the top and shove a goldfish cracker into the middle of it.

**Rileigh:** Of course.

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** Bring it home, put it in the fridge, and trick mom.

**Taylor:** I mean, that's a pretty good trick. It worked.

**Rileigh:** I'm impressed that she managed to shove it in there and have it stay whole. Like, I would've thought it would've just crumbled.

**Sydnee:** It— and, I mean, the hole was really small. I mean, like, obviously it was big enough to get the goldfish cracker through but, like, no bigger. It was exactly the size you'd need it to be to get a goldfish cracker through.

**Taylor:** A Houdini moment. I— I— maybe—was she looking out for you? Because I was gonna say, like, you know, my problem with your breakfast isn't— I mean, soda's not great... sustenance-wise. But, like, just a Cutie, that's not enough. So maybe she was looking out. Like, "No, you need a balanced breakfast. You need another orange thing for breakfast."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Yeah, it was— it was an orange— and she had options of what color— 'cause we get her, like, the— we get them, like, the multi-colored goldfish.

**Raleigh:** Of course it was an orange one.

**Sydnee:** But she picked the orange one to go in the orange.

**Raleigh:** Of course. Um, have you told her you did this? Was she, like, experimenting? Was she saving it there for something? Did you tell her you took it and ruined it?

**Sydnee:** She doesn't know yet. She was at school, I was sitting in my car.  
[laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** She was infusing that orange with the orange goldfish.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Now, the hard part is that I had this moment where I'm sitting there in my car staring at this. Which, man, I wonder what people walking by thought, 'cause I'm just, like, sitting there staring forlornly at this open Cutie.

**Raleigh:** "Man, that woman's having a rough morning."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "I've never seen someone cry over a Cutie."

**Sydnee:** I'm just staring at it, and I'm thinking... "Do I eat it?"

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah.

**Sydnee:** I— it was—

**Raleigh:** Just peel off the goldfish and eat it.

**Taylor:** Yeah, don't eat the goldfish.

**Sydnee:** It was so mushy. It was not p— no, it didn't peel off. It just went everywhere.

**Rileigh:** Just scoop out the goldfish and eat it.

**Taylor:** No. I mean, you know, savory and sweet. I think it could work. You just kinda— just rub it around on there, get all the goldfish equally distributed on the Cutie.

**Sydnee:** Ugh. I just had no concept of how long it had been there.

**Taylor:** Like, watermelon feta. That works. Maybe orange and wet goldfish works. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Ugh. So I didn't have my breakfast. But... anyway, that was my— I have no idea why she did it. I can't wait to ask Charlie later today, what was that all about? Please, please explain. [laughs quietly] Please help me understand what you did to this orange and why. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Just a little science.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** Maybe she's gonna be really hurt. Maybe she had some plans.

**Sydnee:** She had some plans for it?

**Rileigh:** Maybe.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I guess she could replicate it.

**Rileigh:** Maybe it'll never be that perfect again.

**Taylor:** You've gotta replace it before she gets home so she doesn't know. It's like when you have the actual goldfish die in your house and you have to get a new one so your kids won't fall apart.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Did we ever do that to you? That feels like—

**Rileigh:** Many times.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that feels like something we would've done to you. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** I had— I had Sister— Sister Barbara Fish.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Sister Barbara Fish!

**Rileigh:** That I then found out was I think Sister Barbara Fish, like, six. 'Cause I'd had that fish for, like, two years. [laughs quietly] I was like, "Man, she's getting old."

**Taylor:** You know, Sister Barbara Fish was after I moved out of the house. Was she your sister? Named, like, Barbara Fish? Or was she a nun?

**Rileigh:** Unclear. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Okay. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I always thought she was a nun, but I didn't know why. Like, I never understood why you wanted the fish to be a nun. I was just like, "Aw. Rileigh wants her fish to be a nun."

**Rileigh:** Why did I name it that? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't know. [laughs] That's just what you called it.

**Rileigh:** I genuinely have no idea where that came from. I just very clearly remember that name.

**Sydnee:** I like the idea that you were like, "This fish is a nun. This is— this isn't Barbara. This is Sister Barbara. It's a nun."

**Rileigh:** It made sense.

**Sydnee:** And then you were like, "Hmm. But it's still a fish, so I better call it Sister Barbara Fish."

**Raleigh:** So no one gets confused.

**Sydnee:** So nobody thinks it's a human nun, like when I—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** Living in my house.

**Sydnee:** That I— that I keep in a bowl of water in the kitchen.

**Taylor:** Just all fishes' last name is Fish. Maybe it's that.

**Raleigh:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** Hmm! You think that's true?

[pause]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Are all fish related?

**Raleigh:** Probably, right? Like, it started out there was—

**Taylor:** [laughs] Probably, right?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** In the beginning, there was a fish.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Now there are many.

**Taylor:** We're— okay, this is dangerous territory. We're gonna get a review that says we're a very bad fish podcast. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, no! We're a very bad fish podcast now!

**Taylor:** We are, though. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** All fish are related, and their last names are all Fish! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And some of them are nuns. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [crosstalk] They can be nuns.

**Sydnee:** They can't—

**Taylor:** They can [crosstalk] God!

**Sydnee:** They—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —they can join religious orders. That's fine. Why not? Why limit that fi— why limit Sister Barbara?

**Rileigh:** No, Sister Barbara Fish was one of those moments that I learned of several years later that in the span of two years I didn't keep one fish alive, I kept like, eight fish alive and that was, uh... that was a moment for me.

**Taylor:** You know, I like the positive spin you put on that. "I kept eight fish alive."

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Not just one. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Not at the same time.

**Sydnee:** I didn't keep one fish alive for a long time, but I did keep eight fish alive for very short periods of time. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** For a very short period of time.

**Taylor:** Yeah, that's how we're gonna— we're gonna phrase it that way. Good job.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh. Yay! It's never— it's not too late to be a vet. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs] I think I'd be very bad at it!

**Taylor:** Too late for eight generations of Barbara Fish.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Were they all nuns?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Sister Mary Barbara.

**Sydnee:** You murdered a whole convent.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Sister Mary Ann. [laughs] You know, all the sisters.

**Taylor:** Oh no, where is your God now, Barbara Fish?

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Oh no! Barbara Fish!

**Raleigh:** Is there a fish god, do you think? Or is it all one?

**Taylor:** Is it just the one?

**Raleigh:** Who knows.

**Taylor:** What if there's only a fish god?

[laughs]

**Taylor:** [crosstalk]

**Raleigh:** —keep going with this.

**Taylor:** —questions for this podcast.

**Sydnee:** A lot of people are gonna be very disappointed.

**Raleigh:** I'm sorry. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um... so...

**Raleigh:** *Camp Rock*.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I know. I'm sitting there going, [laughs] how do you go from a fish god to *Camp Rock*?

**Raleigh:** Um... anyways...

**Sydnee:** A question Joe Jonas never considered. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** There you go. We're talking about *Camp Rock*, um, which ended up being a very good idea for me. I decided we were doing this two weeks ago now, and then ended up stranded in my room at our parents' house with COVID for a week. Um, so revisiting the *Camp Rock* movies and many other Disney Channel movies was a welcome distraction.

**Sydnee:** How many are there? I just watched the first one.

**Raleigh:** There are only two.

**Sydnee:** Oh, okay.

**Raleigh:** So it's not quite a *High School Musical*, you know? Full— full series. Only two. Um, they're both pretty good. They're different, but we— we're just gonna talk about the first one. Um, which if you're unaware is a Disney Channel original movie, um, starring Demi Lovato and Joe Jonas, and several other of those Disney kids.

**Sydnee:** I didn't know those Disney kids.

**Raleigh:** I did, but just because it— I mean, it was of that time where, like, all of them were on the same TV shows and movies and... then there was, like, the Disney Channel games were they had, like, various teams of Disney Channel stars that all played a bunch of big team games against each other for an entire summer on TV. Um, it was amazing.

**Sydnee:** Kind of like a real world versus road rules, but for kids?

**Raleigh:** Yeah, except it was, like, fun outdoor summer— I mean, it was stuff like tug of war and capture the flag, and there were, like, four teams of Disney Channel stars.

**Sydnee:** Like wild and crazy kids.

**Taylor:** There you go.

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly] Precisely. Um...

**Sydnee:** Aw, man. I miss that show. That was a great show.

**Raleigh:** *Camp Rock*... Demi Lovato goes to a camp. Which, you're not gonna believe this, it's called Camp Rock. And they learn how to be music stars. Joe Jonas is a very angsty celebrity singer.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And... hijinks ensue.

**Sydnee:** Um, now they use the word "rock" loosely, I would say.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I don't know why I expected that they would actually rock.

**Raleigh:** Um, I mean, some of the songs are pretty good.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, no, I'm not saying the songs are bad.

**Raleigh:** Some of the songs are pretty good.

**Sydnee:** I'm questioning the genre only, not the quality.

**Rileigh:** Yes, no, it's a—

**Taylor:** If you were to compare the musical stylings of *Camp Rock* to, like, *School of Rock*, very different employment of the word rock.

**Rileigh:** Very different, yes.

**Sydnee:** This is true.

**Rileigh:** Um, I will say, what's interesting about this that I hadn't really realized until I watched *Camp Rock*, and then *Camp Rock 2*, and then all the *High School Musical* movies, um, is that *Camp Rock* is a Disney Channel movie that's a musical, but they never just break out into song. They only sing, like, within the context of the movie when it would make sense for people to sing. The second movie, that all goes out the window. They're just singing all the time. Songs all over the place. But the first movie is... there are lots of songs, but only in the sense that, like, someone's performing, or... well, that's usually it. Someone's performing.

**Sydnee:** That's interesting. I feel like movies like that— I feel like they should have different names for what that—

**Rileigh:** Right?

**Sydnee:** —you know what I mean? Like, that— that doesn't— I would've said this is a movie musical, but now that you say that it's— it's not, in that sense.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. There's no breaking out into song. I mean, there is, but like, they all do it together, and they're all acknowledging that they're singing, and that is a part of the plot.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Rileigh:** Which is different than, like, *La La Land*, they all break out into song and dance in the middle of the highway, but really that didn't happen. You know what I mean?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um... but yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's a good point. I didn't really think about that.

**Rileigh:** Yep. Um—

**Sydnee:** Were they worried that— well, I mean, this came after *High School Musical*, right?

**Rileigh:** I— yes.

**Sydnee:** I assume. I don't know.

**Rileigh:** I did not look that up to be sure, but I am pretty positive that it did. Um... the first one came out in 2008, so yeah. This was after *High School Musical*.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause I would assume they were trying to build on that sort of idea.

**Rileigh:** I would think so. I mean...

**Sydnee:** Kids love watching cute teens sing songs to each other.

**Rileigh:** We really do.

**Sydnee:** That's true. I mean, I— you know, that's the thing. I like it. It's kind of a cheesy teen musical romance. Like, in the style of *Grease* type of mo— you know? I like that kind of thing. I'm never gonna say I dislike it.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's predictable but, like, that was the fun of movies like that. You didn't have to stress. You didn't have to worry. You kind of knew things would work out. That's nice.

**Rileigh:** It borrows from many different stereotypical teen movie plots, to the point where by the end you're like, "I'm not entirely sure what has happened." Um, for example, Joe Jonas hears Demi Lovato singing, but doesn't see Demi Lovato. And then at some point does a very Cinderella-esque, has all of the girls in the camp sing for him to see if they're the one that he heard singing? Um, and then also Demi lies about their mom being the cook, and says they're the president of Hot Tunes China, whatever.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I don't know. It's like— all these different, like, plot devices that were all thrown into one. Like, there's the mean girl, but she's not actually mean because she's a bad person. She's got a lot going on at home, and her mom doesn't pay attention to her, and—

**Sydnee:** That's Disney Channel all over, though. Nobody's ever actually bad.

**Raleigh:** No. Um, she gets redemption at the end. There's the quiet— the quiet sidekicks who end up being the stars. You've gotta have an Alyson Stoner character who's really good at producing music. Which is the funniest part of the move, for me.

**Sydnee:** Do you mean the keyboard?

**Raleigh:** Yes. Because she goes, "Check this!" And then hits a few buttons, and it's like, [hums a few notes]. And they're like, "Wow! She's good!" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Please describe that scene, though. What, like, she's doing with her arms. I don't know how to—

**Raleigh:** Oh, when she's performing in the cabin?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** I don't know. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't know how to describe what happens there, when Demi Lovato's like, "She's so good." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "She's really good!" Yeah. Um, Allison Stoner, who now is... queer... I don't know exactly how— is queer, which is great. Many Disney stars now are, um, out. But she is a producer is, like, her talent. Everyone there has, like, some sort of musical skill. Either they play an instrument, or they dance, or they sing. Um, and she wants to produce music.

So she's standing up behind her keyboard... playing these sick beats. But then, like, hits her head with her arm and does kind of like a little robot thing and, like, twists her arms around while she's, like, hitting all the buttons?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs] I don't—

**Sydnee:** It was the wildest—

**Rileigh:** I'm doing it while I'm sitting here as if you can see me, but—

**Sydnee:** I don't— I don't know— watch the video. I don't know how to describe it.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, she wants to do the same that... oh, no. She's one of the Bellas. Her name's not Bella.

**Rileigh:** Anna Kendrick?

**Taylor:** Yeah. What she does in her movies where they sing songs, too, right?  
[laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Yeah. They always have one of those little pads that has all, like, the— I mean, it's like this. It has all, like, the mushy colored buttons on it that they hit and, like, each one has a different sound, and it's always them, like, sitting there, like, pressing the buttons in a rhythm, and they're like, "Wow! Look at that?"

**Sydnee:** Is that how music is made?

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] I don't know!

**Taylor:** I always like— like, I know I'm an adult. I wouldn't— I wouldn't put it in my mouth. But those buttons look very edible.

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's true.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, yeah.

**Taylor:** I wouldn't— I wouldn't taste it, but I wanna taste it.

**Rileigh:** There are eight of those buttons on this soundboard right now.

**Taylor:** It's a good thing I'm not in that room [laughs quietly].

**Rileigh:** They do look edible.

**Sydnee:** Well, they do look very edible. I mean, they do. I'm surprised my kids haven't tried to take a bit of those.

**Rileigh:** They may have. Um...

**Taylor:** Are there any goldfish hidden in them? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Rileigh:** Probably. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Goldfish smashed on them.

**Rileigh:** Uh, one plot point that I thought was funny, I was watching a guy I watch on YouTube do, like, a funny commentary on this movie. Um, and of course— which is very *Mean Girls*-esque. The friend Mitchie, Demi Lovato makes at camp, who is Allison Stoner, who produces music, is not quote, unquote "cool." So Demi wants to be friends with the cool girl Tess, who's also the mean girl, of course. Um...

**Sydnee:** She's too cool.

**Rileigh:** She's too cool. [laughs quietly] Her song— she is actually too cool to know you. Um...

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** But of course just like how Janice used to be friends with Regina, and then they had a falling out, Allison Stoner... Caitlin, I think is her character's

name? Used to be friends with Tess, but then they had a falling out because Tess saw her as competition. But Allison Stoner is a producer, and Tess is a lead singer. That's not competition. That's, like, you all should work together. You all would work very well together, actually. One of you makes music, one of you wants to sing music.

**Sydnee:** That's just classic mean girl stuff though, you know?

**Raleigh:** I know.

**Taylor:** That—

**Raleigh:** I know.

**Taylor:** That "Too Cool" song, you know...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** It's very, very on the nose. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yep. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I'm too cool for this dress, I believe? Too cool for this dress is how it starts. Which, like, when I first saw that I was like, "Is this like an "I'm Too Sexy" ripoff?"

**Taylor:** [laughs] For, like— for Disney-aged children?

**Raleigh:** She's too cool.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** For Disney children, it's about how she's way too cool for this dress she's wearing, not sexy.

**Raleigh:** No. Too cool.

**Sydnee:** Too cool.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** To other children.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Let's keep this... [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Keep it G-rated. Um, which again, at the very end when there's a big emotional moment, Joe Jonas and Demi Lovato, they don't kiss. No, no. They would never. They hold hands. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** How old were these kiddos? They look young.

**Raleigh:** Um, you mean in real life?

**Sydnee:** Like, in the mo— like, yeah. I mean, the... [sighs] so, I know not always, but typically even when the actors are playing, you know, teens, they're not teens.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Well, uh, okay. So, in this movie Demi Lovato was 16 in real life.

**Taylor:** Yeah, okay.

**Sydnee:** Well.

**Raleigh:** Um... uh, and—

**Sydnee:** I would buy that. They look young.

**Raleigh:** Joe Jonas was 19, so... I'd say they were all around that age.

**Sydnee:** Hm.

**Rileigh:** Um, you know Disney Channel used to do that a lot more. They used to cast a lot more teens in those teen shows. [sighs] Now obviously they don't as much.

**Sydnee:** I like it too because I don't know— I don't know if this has changed with music production and editing over time, or if this is a mark of their voices being younger. There is something, especially about Demi Lovato, that sounds a little bit unpolished. And I mean that in a good way. This is not an insult. You know, they're a very good singer. But, like, there's something about the... I don't know. [stammers] It sounds young. It sounds not quite perfectly trained yet. It's nice.

**Rileigh:** It doesn't sound super autotuned.

**Sydnee:** Is it very autotuned?

**Rileigh:** Well, that's what I'm saying. Like, it doesn't to me.

**Sydnee:** Yes. No, I was gonna say, I don't think it does either, yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I agree.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, especially that scene, which I honestly couldn't tell— there's a— um... Mitchie gets up in front of the class and sings the song that they've written, like a little bit of it with no music. Um, and I couldn't tell if that was lip syncing and that was previously recorded, or if that was live, like, just Demi singing in that moment. Probably just for, like, editing's sake, it probably was prerecorded and done over. But it didn't sound... like it was. It sounded like Demi was just singing.

**Sydnee:** It's very... uh, it's very breathy singing, too.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like, you can hear all the... pauses for breath. I don't know. I know that's a weird thing to notice, but I notice it because it's so often clipped out of music that it surpri— it— it gave it kind of a— I don't wanna say rock, but it did give it a raw edge.

**Raleigh:** It was rock.

**Sydnee:** Well... [laughs]

**Taylor:** There's the rock.

**Raleigh:** There's the rock.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] But it was— I mean, it is nice. I enjoy that. I enjoy the idea that I'm really hearing somebody sing, and I think you do feel that in the movie.

**Raleigh:** Well, Demi Lovato was one of those rare Disney Channel stars that also had a music career, but it wasn't because they just decided, like, "I have a popular TV show or movie. I'm gonna sing." Like, they genuinely have a very good voice. I mean, even now when they make music, like, they have a great singing voice. Um, which I think you can tell by the little amount of editing it sounds like they did to Demi's songs. But then if you listen [laughs] when Joe Jonas is playing his guitar and serenading Mitchie by the lake, at one point he has layered vocals.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Like, there's, like, three layers there, but he's just sitting outside playing his guitar and singing! [laughs] It's like, hold on, wait a minute.

**Taylor:** The other Jonas brothers are hiding in the bushes. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** See? Now, that would've been brilliant. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** How did they decide which Jonas got the starring role? 'Cause the other two just kind of...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** You know, they don't really have parts.

**Raleigh:** Okay. Here's my theory, 'cause I was thinking about this. 'Cause in the second one, Nick Jonas is honestly in the movie more than Joe Jonas.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Well—

**Raleigh:** Like, Nick plays the bigger part. They're both in it, but—

**Sydnee:** And I thought— you're the expert on the Jo-bros.

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** Um, I thought Nick was the heartthrob.

**Raleigh:** Well, back then in 2008, it was Joe.

**Sydnee:** Ohhh.

**Raleigh:** I mean, did you see that hair?

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah.

**Raleigh:** The swoop— the swoopy hair? It was Joe.

**Sydnee:** I get it. I get it. The swoopy hair.

**Raleigh:** Um, when they got a little bit older and they started putting out, like, edgier music, um, then it was Nick. 'Cause he looked a little bit older, he fixed that hair he had going on in *Camp Rock 1*, then it was Nick. But my guess is that they had to convince the Jonas brothers to do this. 'Cause they were like, "We need some sort of draw for this movie," 'Cause I'm pretty sure at this point Demi Lovato had not done a lot of other stuff on Disney. Um, so they needed something and someone, so they had to convince them to, and Joe was the most popular one. So it's like, "Okay. Well, if you all don't want to be in it then, like, just give us Joe, and let's have Kevin and Nick for, like, two scenes. We'll film 'em in, like, one day, the very beginning and the very end, and you all can go."

And then they saw how popular it got, and Kevin and Nick were like, "Hold on, wait a minute, wait a minute." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "Let us be in this one." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** They were like, "Sure, Nick. We'll see, Kevin."

**Raleigh:** Ehh, yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You'll be— you'll be the star of *Camp Rock 3*, Kevin. When we do the third one.

**Sydnee:** We promise! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That we're definitely doing.

**Sydnee:** Poor Kevin.

**Raleigh:** I know.

**Sydnee:** It's tough being— he's the oldest, right?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's tough. It's tough being the oldest.

**Taylor:** I still can't believe that there's one named Kevin.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** There's nothing wrong with the name, but... not a Kevin Jonas. There's a Nick and there's a Joe and there's a... uh... well, it's not Kevin.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] There is bonus Jonas. He's Frankie.

**Sydnee:** Frankie?

**Raleigh:** Frankie.

**Sydnee:** Aw.

**Taylor:** But he's not— he's not, like, the— like, one of the... does he sing? Does he do—

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** —what does Frankie do?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, what does he do? What's his job?

**Raleigh:** Can you imagine being Frankie Jonas, and your three brothers are so famous, and you're the little teeny one that got left at home that didn't get to be in the band?

**Sydnee:** Aww. Why didn't they—

**Raleigh:** Can you imagine?

**Sydnee:** Did he wanna be in the band?

**Raleigh:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Do you know— call— call him.

**Raleigh:** Okay. Here's what I think.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** If 2008 was, like, right when the Jonas Brothers had started becoming super popular, and Joe Jonas was 19, then Nick was probably only, like, 15 or 16.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And Frankie is, like, my age. So Frankie was like... seven.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** So I don't think he was old enough to be in the band yet, and then they just took off and it's like, "Well, we can't add a fourth one now."

**Sydnee:** Why not?!

**Taylor:** Maybe he'll have, like, a— like, an Elizabeth Olsen, like, you know— 'cause you had the Olsen twins had their whole career, but now, like, she's big with all the Marvel stuff. You know, he could— he could have his moment. I have faith in Frankie.

**Raleigh:** He had a bit of a scandal recently.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Ooh!

**Raleigh:** Because he... um, is pretty popular on TikTok. Um, which I— they did a Jonas Brothers Family roast that he did not come to, and all the rest of the family and all the other wives and stuff were there, so I don't know why Frankie wasn't there. Um, but it was a whole bit they did where Pete Davidson pretended to be Frankie. It was very funny. But there's something there. Frankie wasn't there. Anyways.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, it might just be the obvious. Like...

**Raleigh:** He's— 'cause—

**Sydnee:** Thanks, mom and dad. Why did you let the three of my brothers have this awesome career in music, and you weren't ever like, "Include your little brother. Don't leave Frankie out."

**Raleigh:** Especially when they broke up and then got back together when they all were adults and Frankie was like, you know, in his 20's.

**Taylor:** Now with Frankie! That would've been a good—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Relaunching campaign, right? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Now with Frankie!

**Raleigh:** Now with Frankie! Now with bonus Jonas. Um...

**Sydnee:** If we ever decide to reinvent our show again, that's what we should do. Invite Frankie Jonas and—

**Raleigh:** Now with Frankie.

**Taylor:** Now with Frankie.

**Sydnee:** Like, welcome to *Still Buffering*, Mach 3, now with Frankie.

**Taylor:** Love it.

**Raleigh:** Um, he went to a, uh— like, a TikTok influencer party with a bunch of those famous, like, you know, 16-year-olds that dance on TikTok and make millions and millions of dollars. And he brought a necklace that has the logo for the Church of Scientology on it. And put it on them and was like, "Let me, like, take a video of you with this cool necklace on," and didn't tell them what it was. So then he took a bunch of little short videos of all these famous TikTokers wearing the... necklace.

**Sydnee:** Is he Scientologist?

**Raleigh:** No!

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** That was the— he's not.

**Sydnee:** Oh no.

**Raleigh:** But he was taking videos of them wearing it.

**Sydnee:** Poor taste.

**Raleigh:** But then people got mad at him, 'cause then afterwards they found out what it was. And they were like, "Hey, now. You didn't tell me that's what that was."

**Sydnee:** Yeah...

**Raleigh:** So that's kind of his brand now is like, hmm. Frankie...

**Sydnee:** He's, like, Prankie?

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [snorts]

**Taylor:** Just Frankie?

**Sydnee:** Prankie.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Pranks.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Prankie.

**Raleigh:** I— no, I got it the first— yeah, I got the first time.

**Taylor:** Oh, I was hoping that I had misheard that.

**Raleigh:** Nope.

**Taylor:** So you said it again.

**Raleigh:** Multiple times.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Um, anyways.

**Taylor:** This is why Sydnee likes *Grease 2*. I won't explain further.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Prankie. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Um...

**Sydnee:** That was a bad one, though. I don't like— that— I do not agree with that prank. I think that it's, uh— that's nothing to joke about, Scientology. It's a serious— that's a serious business. Stay away. Also I wouldn't joke about 'em 'cause then they might, like, stake out your house and follow you around and videotape you all the time.

**Taylor:** I think we need to get back to *Camp Rock*. This is not... [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes. We don't— we don't wanna talk about him.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Um, anyways, *Camp Rock*. Um, I wanna know what you all thought. Because, okay, so at the end of the movie, of course there's a big final jam, which is like the competition at the end of the camp where everyone performs, and there's a winner, and they get a record deal or something like that, with the same label that signed the Joe Bros? Which in this movie, they're called Connect Three, is the name of their band. The Gray Brothers in Connect Three, which is... a thought.

**Sydnee:** You gotta wonder why they didn't just say, like, these are the Jonas Brothers.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, or if you want to change their name and make 'em, like...

**Sydnee:** The Gray Brothers?

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Just change the last name but keep brothers. Why Connect Three? Anyways.

**Sydnee:** The Gray Brothers would sound kind of like they're ill. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's true. Are they--

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [faintly] The Gray Brothers. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Victorian.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] The Wan Brothers.

**Rileigh:** [laughs] So... obviously there's drama, and Mitchie can't compete, which they have to do because it's too obvious if you let Demi Lovato compete, Demi Lovato's gonna win.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Rileigh:** So of course they make it so Mitchie can't. Um, but Tess is about to perform, mean girl Tess. This other basically "I'm Too Cool For You" number. Different song, basically. With her two backup singers, and then they get mad at her. Like, "We've had enough! Done being your backup singers."

And then they both perform. One of them performs with another group. One of them performs by herself. And she's the one that wins. Which, I— she has a great voice. She sings a great song. Um, but I was actually surprised that Disney Channel did this, because they also let Demi Lovato come back on and sing at the end, when technically the competition's over, so technically the camp's over, so you can't—

**Sydnee:** That was the catch, yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um, but in my mind, watching it the first time I'm like, "Oh, they'll like, change the rules, 'cause Demi Lovato is so good, they'll make it so Demi Lovato can win. They'll make an exception for Demi."

But then they let one of these side characters that sings a really nice ballad win.

**Sydnee:** But— well, maybe in the Disney Channel thought process, Demi Lovato gets Joe Jonas.

**Raleigh:** [sighs] Gets Joe Jonas.

**Taylor:** That's the real prize all along.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] The great— the greatest prize is the boy.

**Raleigh:** Well, she does say— she does say at the end— her mom's like, "I'm sorry you couldn't win."

She says, "I did win. The best summer of my life." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** God, that's Disney.

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Taylor:** Now, the reason she can't— er, the reason they can't compete is because of the, um...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Doesn't the mean girl, like... frames Demi Lovato for theft?

**Raleigh:** Yes. Yes.

**Sydnee:** For theft. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Frames Demi Lovato for stealing her charm bracelet.

**Sydnee:** Which is rough, too, since we've established that Demi Lovato's character, Mitchie is, like, not... I don't wanna say poor.

**Raleigh:** Well, they didn't have the money for her to go to *Camp Rock* originally, so her—

**Sydnee:** Right, but in, like, Disney Channel, that's— in those sorts of, like, teens movie— teen movies, that's the, like, "Oh, this person is supposed to be poor, by our standards."

**Taylor:** Right.

**Raleigh:** 'Cause it starts with her not being able to go.

**Sydnee:** I don't mean I think that this character is poor, I just mean, like, that's the— that's the movie take on it.

**Raleigh:** And we know that Tess is, like, excessively wealthy, because her mom is some famous pop star or something, or singer.

**Sydnee:** But she doesn't get love and attention.

**Raleigh:** No. Um, her mom answers a phone call [laughs quietly] in the middle of her performance! And it makes her almost fall off the stage. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] That's a sick burn.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Uh... um, but yeah. She, uh, plants her charm bracelet in between a stack of textbooks that are in the kitchen. Don't know why there were textbooks there. They looked like textbooks, I think. Um, this is a camp. Maybe they were cookbooks? I don't know. [crosstalk]

**Sydnee:** Maybe they're supposed to be cookbooks. That would make more sense.

**Raleigh:** That would make more sense. But plants it just in between this stack of books, just right there in the middle of the kitchen. So then the director of the camp comes in and is like, "Oh. Well, I have no choice now. It's right here. Obviously you stole it."

**Sydnee:** "I can't believe you stole it."

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] Very aggressive. If you wanna get somebody disqualified from a competition, like, these are high stakes. Frame you for theft, but the punishment is just like, "Oh, I guess you can't compete."

**Raleigh:** Sorry.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, and that was after already making sure that the whole camp knew, like, "Hey, Mitchie's only here because their mom works in the kitchen."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** So...

**Raleigh:** Which, like, they make such a big deal out of? Which I guess makes sense, because this was Disney Channel in 2008, um, and was also a plot point in *Glee* when, like, Marley came and—

**Sydnee:** I thought about that!

**Raleigh:** Yeah, everyone made fun of her because her mom was the cook at the school. I don't know. I don't know—[laughs] I don't know why they made such a big deal out of it, but, um... yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's an old, like, I mean, teen movie kind of trope, though.

**Raleigh:** That's true, that's true.

**Sydnee:** That's like, uh, *Pretty in Pink*. I mean, her mom doesn't work in the kitchen but, like, that's the whole thing is, like, she doesn't have money. That's her character's thing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's very 80's movie reminiscent when, like, that was your— that would be a character trait. That's everything you need to know about the 80's. In the 80's, your whole character trait in a movie could be you have money, or you don't have money.

**Raleigh:** You don't have money, yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's all you need to know. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, 'cause that, like, I— in my real high school, there was a girl whose mom worked in the kitchen, and everybody wanted to be her friend, 'cause you would get, like, two rolls if she liked you.

**Raleigh:** Exactly!

**Taylor:** Like, it was—

**Sydnee:** That's what—

**Taylor:** —that— that—[through laughter] that *was* money in high school!

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** Exactly. It is a really warped perception of what kids would care about, because if you have a hookup to, like, unlimited super donuts... that's awesome.

**Raleigh:** Two pieces of square pizza?

**Sydnee:** That's cred.

**Taylor:** Extra dino nuggets.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Maybe— and then, you know, especially when you're younger, like, my thought would be, "[gasps] Does she bring them home?"

**Raleigh:** Exactly.

**Sydnee:** Are you getting school pizza, and rolls, and dino nugs at home?!

**Taylor:** Can you imagine, like, if every chicken nugget Thursday turned into, like, chicken nugget Friday and Saturday with leftovers?

**Raleigh:** Oh, man.

**Sydnee:** Oh my gosh.

**Raleigh:** See, I want that.

**Sydnee:** I— I mean, there's a dirty part of me that just wishes I was eating a big school roll with that ice cream scoop-shaped mound of mashed potatoes that you'd dip the roll in.

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** You make a sandwich. You— you— you open it up, and it's the mashed potatoes, a chicken nugget, and then some of the little green beans. Like, the super salty green beans. [laughs] And you just smush it all together.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** I just want one of those big pieces of rectangular pizza.

**Taylor:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** With corn? [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Always with a side of corn.

**Taylor:** The natural side.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** In Italy, you know, the pizza is always served with a side of corn.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** This is how they do it in Naples!

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

**Sydnee:** The home of pizza.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And corn. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [sighs]

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Rileigh:** I would like to argue, though, that I think the best number in this whole show that I don't know why it doesn't win the final jam is Hasta la Vista.

**Sydnee:** Hasta la Vista! I was gonna say, can we talk about Hasta la Vista?  
[laughs]

**Rileigh:** That song goes so hard. I don't know how that didn't win. They're on trampolines, and doing choreography on there. Like, what?!

**Sydnee:** It's a— I— okay, I liked it. I enjoyed it. I agree. I think it's the best. Um, I like that the whole song is sort of like, um... I mean, like, you're saying goodbye to camp, basically, right?

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, oh my gosh, we've had so much fun. I can't believe it's over. Like, it's very, like, "Hope you had the time of your life" kind of song, you know?

**Rileigh:** It is, yeah.

**Sydnee:** And instead it's like, "Hasta la Vista!"

**Rileigh:** "Buh-bye!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] And it's supposed to be this sort of, like, tough, hard song. And it's like... we— man, I can't believe it's already coming to an end. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I love it.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, that was always my favorite.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I was partial to "Hasta la Vista." I like that one.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, I kind of enjoyed the idea of a song that just proclaims, "I'm Too Cool."

**Rileigh:** "I'm Too Cool."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Also a good song.

**Sydnee:** Uh...

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Demi Lovato's song is a classic, though. "This is Me."

**Sydnee:** Yeah. "This is Me" is very good.

**Rileigh:** So good. Um, I do want to tell you all, just so you can know, 'cause I don't expect you all to ever take the time to watch it. The plot of the second movie, because you're like, "Where are they gonna go from here?" They're all friends now. They all sing together, Demi Lovato and Joe Jonas are in love. They come back for camp next year, but uh-oh! There's a super rich, fancy, rival camp that now has opened, called Camp Star.

**Taylor:** Oh no!

**Rileigh:** And they're taking all the campers, and *Camp Rock's* gonna have to close down, 'cause they stole all the campers, so there aren't enough campers. So of course Demi Lovato and all of them have to team up to be the new counselors of *Camp Rock* and save *Camp Rock*, and then it ends with a big, televised competition between Camp Star and *Camp Rock*.

**Sydnee:** Where— where is this place where there are multiple... music-themed summer camps?

**Rileigh:** I have wondered this many times. With, like, professional, like— 'cause we're supposed to believe that this guy that runs it is the— is some sort of, like, pr— record producer or something?

**Sydnee:** Producer or something? Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um, and the Jonas Brothers are supposed to be as big in the movie as they are in real life, so they're there. So this is a big deal.

**Sydnee:** Which, like, how much were they paying him to be, like, the dance instructor or whatever?

**Rileigh:** [holding back laughter] which is the best part, that Joe Jonas is the dance instructor! [laughs]

**Taylor:** That entire sequence where he's instructing the class and it's just like, he's not really teaching them. He's just dancing like, "And now you're gonna do this, and then this." And they just all pick it up. Like, I mean I get it, it's a movie. But it's very silly. "Everybody get a hat."

**Rileigh:** Yeah. And a mic.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** And a mic.

**Rileigh:** Um... I also like thinking about that this Joe Jonas that we're seeing in this movie, with that hair, and that angst, and that style— 'cause that style they wear in the movie is, like, very much like how the Jonas Brothers just were in real life. Um, that's the one that dated Taylor Swift, that broke her heart so much that she wrote, like, all of— all of *Fearless*, all those angry breakup songs. And, like, half the ones on *Speak Now*. That Joe Jonas.

**Taylor:** Oh, wow.

**Sydnee:** Now, did— was this movie before or after that?

**Rileigh:** Um... uh...

**Sydnee:** 'Cause I— 'cause I mean, like, surely if she saw this movie [through laughter] she wouldn't have felt the same. Surely. Although I don't know. I mean, he's dreamy in the teen way, I guess.

**Rileigh:** So, *Fearless*— yeah, I mean, it came out in fall of 2008, so it had to have been before this. 'Cause this movie came out in 2008, so.

**Sydnee:** Oh, okay.

**Rileigh:** Um... yeah.

**Sydnee:** Hmmm.

**Taylor:** That's interesting.

**Rileigh:** Yep.

**Taylor:** I love— I mean, I also love the idea that this kid, this young boy— I mean, he's a teenager— needs an image, like, rehabilitation, [through laughter] so he has to go to camp for that. Like, what did he do?

It's like, "He's rude to fans."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** He's too angsty.

**Taylor:** Too angry.

**Rileigh:** To bring him back down to Earth.

**Taylor:** He wants to play his real music, which is...

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Sounds... fine. [through laughter] I don't know.

**Sydnee:** Which sounds like all the other music! [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah. It's like, "No, this is what I really wanna play."

It's like, that sounds like what you do already!

**Sydnee:** You wanna play pop? [through laughter] Like...

**Rileigh:** You wanna play the same songs you've been playing except, like, an acoustic version? Okay.

**Taylor:** You wanna play acoustic guitar? I think that's fine.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** I mean, when you sing you already come out with three voices. You already got layered vocals when you just sing on your own, so whatever you wanna sing, man, it's fine. Uh, I would like to say, I think they missed a prime opportunity in this movie for even more drama.

**Sydnee:** How so?

**Rileigh:** When Tess finds Mitchie's notebook that has the song in it that Mitchie has written, and then hears Joe Jonas singing this song, like, this girl was singing this song, I gotta find her. This is the— these are the words, this is the tune. I can't I get it out of my head, but I don't know the song.

When she goes up to perform for the final jam, why does she not steal the song?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's a good point.

**Taylor:** Ohh.

**Rileigh:** Like, they set it up like—

**Taylor:** *A Little Mermaid* moment.

**Rileigh:** Exactly! They set it up so she finds the notebook and it's like, well, why'd you make such a big deal out of it? 'Cause all that does is tell her, like, "Oh. Well... Mitchie must be the one that Shane's looking for." That's the end of that plotline. You know what I mean?

**Sydnee:** Maybe because in the Disney world, like, ethics, you don't want anybody to ever be—

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —too— well, I mean, really, like, they never want anybody to be irredeemable.

**Raleigh:** Too mean, yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know what I mean? Like...

**Raleigh:** She is redeemed at the end, of course.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** She's like, "I'm sorry I was mean."

**Sydnee:** And, like, it's the sa— it— like, uh... it's sort of like Pete... of the *Mickey Mouse Club*?

**Raleigh:** Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** You know Pete the cat?

**Raleigh:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** Like, he's kind of the antagonist, but only kind of.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** He's never bad. Like, everything he does is like—

**Raleigh:** So Tess is just like Pete.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** That's— that's Disney. That's the Disney ethics for you. Like, somebody who's sort of disruptive, but not... they're not bad, 'cause nobody's bad in Disney.

**Taylor:** I kind of like that, 'cause I actually think hey, hey, Disney. That's pretty true in life, too. Like...

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know, I mean, watch the *Descendants* movies. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** They're all about that! The idea of—

**Rileigh:** Sydnee's weekly plug for *The Descendants*.

**Sydnee:** I love the— okay, listen. I've watched all three movies many times. I have so many thoughts. [laughs quietly] And all I'm saying is, they talk about that a lot. Like, this idea that most bad people— quote, unquote, "bad people," you know— are not— they're just— they have their own stuff going on, and you don't understand it. And that's very Disney.

**Taylor:** I think Disney's doing a lot of that lately, though. I mean, this was obviously a while ago, but— right? Like, 'cause Disney kind of set up that whole, "There's an evil, wicked, bad person, and then the good people have to fight them." And then it's like, "Oh, but wait. What if that was all not true, and Maleficent was good?" And the *Descendant* movies, and oh look, Elsa's the powerful queen, but she's also not bad. Like... a lot of retconning, you know?

**Rileigh:** That's true.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** Or like with *Spider-Mens*.

**Rileigh:** Uh-huh?

**Sydnee:** I'm just saying.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah, that's right. Yeah, all the bad guys in—

**Rileigh:** Like in the— yeah. In *No Way Home*.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I'm just saying.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, they do make her the bad guy again in the second movie, though.

**Taylor:** Oh, really?

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** She betrays them and goes to fancy Camp Star.

**Sydnee:** That sounds right.

**Raleigh:** And then comes back at the end, of course.

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah.

**Raleigh:** They're all friends again, but yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** It is called— the second movie is called *Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam*. Just like in the first movie, how they have the final jam at the end?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** 'Cause it's the end. It's the final jam.

**Sydnee:** I'm really surprised they're aren't, like, ten of these movies.

**Raleigh:** I am too. I don't really know what happened. I don't know if it's that then Demi Lovato started on a Disney Channel show, or started making music, and then wanted to do that?

**Sydnee:** Why wouldn't they have just gotten somebody new?

**Raleigh:** Well, you see what happens when they do that. Look at *Mean Girls* and *Mean Girls 2*.

**Sydnee:** Well, but I think if you—

**Rileigh:** You couldn't've done *High School Musical* without Zac Efron.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** I think— I think with Disney you have such a pool of talent with those Disney Channel stars to pull from, I think you could do that. Because— especially with this, because I will say, like, setting a show in a high school is not new, right? Like, there's lots of shows and movies that are set in high schools. Camps people love, because I know that there are probably people listening who are like, "Why? I went to summer camp. What's the big deal?"

There are a lot of us in the country who cannot believe there are these real camps that people really go sleep at for a summer that have, like, real cabins and real counselors. This is not something I have ever experienced, and have always been fascinated by. And it was— as a kid, thrilled to watch depicted onscreen.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I was trying to find why there was no *Camp Rock 3*. Um... I think it's because Demi Lovato was doing music at that point, so.

**Taylor:** That's too bad, 'cause I wanna see Camp Rock and Camp Star face off against School of Rock.

**Rileigh:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Just a free-for-all three way battle with Jack Black involved. Sounds pretty good.

**Rileigh:** I think it's funny, when look up and see— there's an interview with the Jonas Brothers and asked them, why is there no *Camp Rock 3*? And Nick Jonas is the one to be like, "Absolutely not. No *Camp Rock 3*."

The interview's from 2019, so nine years after the second movie they were like, "Alright, almost 30-year-old Jonas Brothers. Where is *Camp Rock 3*?"

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I— that's a— no, that's actually gonna be creepy if you have—

**Rileigh:** That's gonna be bad.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] If you've got, like, middle-aged people at a sleep away camp, this is gonna get weird.

**Taylor:** Maybe they're the counselors? I don't know. 'Cause they already were—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** [sighs] Maybe. Well, they were in the second one, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Aw, man. I don't know. Like, if they're, like, my age, aren't they a little old to be counselors?

**Taylor:** The President. They're presidents of the camp.

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** Ooh, yeah.

**Raleigh:** They own *Camp Rock*.

**Sydnee:** They own the camp. That would make more sense.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. They also may have broken up around the time they would've made a third one.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Raleigh:** There may have been no Jonas Brothers, which was all Nick's fault.

[pause]

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

**Raleigh:** Hmph.

**Taylor:** Is that—

**Raleigh:** Y'all gotta watch the Jonas Brothers Family Roast.

**Taylor:** Is that your opinion? Or is that, like...

**Raleigh:** Oh, that's fact.

**Taylor:** That's fact. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. He was like, "I want a solo career. I'm too good for you all. Bye."  
[laughs] And he broke up the band.

**Sydnee:** Maybe Frankie's been better off staying out of that mess.

**Taylor:** Sounds like it.

**Raleigh:** Maybe.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And apparently he has a big problem with being called a bonus Jonas, which is why that's only— that's all I call him. [laughs quietly] It's just right there! It's right there!

**Sydnee:** It is right there.

**Raleigh:** It rhymes with the name.

**Sydnee:** Well, thank you for having us [wheezy laughter] watch *Camp Rock*.

**Raleigh:** Thank you all for watching *Camp Rock*.

**Sydnee:** I enjoyed it. I—

**Raleigh:** It's just one of those, like, feel-good Disney movies. It's, like, obviously everything's gonna turn out fine. There's very mild conflict and drama. Very low stakes.

**Sydnee:** The music's great, and the singing is fun. You know, it was fun to watch, I enjoyed it, and I will think about that keyboard performance for a long time.

**Raleigh:** "She's really good!"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I just kept getting distracted by the mom that's, like, doing the kitchen prep. Just, like, the— the inefficient situation going on in that kitchen.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** And also, like, Demi Lovato never helping her out. That's where I was sidetracked.

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** I was just thinking about the poor mom in the kitchen. Like, she is making... 200 individual nacho bowls! Like, what is happening here? [laughs] Somebody help her!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's a camp of, like, several hundred kids, and she's the only one in the kitchen!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah! This is not— that is no—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** She hand-cut pineapples into stars! Like, this woman needs help!

**Sydnee:** [laughs breathlessly] Aww... um...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** When all those tortilla chips hit the ground I was like, that just... such a cost loss. That's— I couldn't— I couldn't focus on the drama. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Aww.

**Rileigh:** Just— I just wanted those tortilla chips. [sighs] What's next, Sydnee?

**Sydnee:** Okay. I'm going to do *Can't Hardly Wait*.

**Rileigh:** Alright.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Rileigh:** I have not seen it.

**Sydnee:** You haven't seen that movie?

**Rileigh:** Nope.

**Sydnee:** I have seen it many times, Tey. I don't know if you were the fan I was.

**Taylor:** I have seen it many times. [stammers] I enjoy it. I'm looking forward to watching it again.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Cla— classic, like, teen party movie.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** From days of yore.

**Rileigh:** Perfect.

**Sydnee:** Alright.

**Taylor:** Very iconic soundtrack, if I remember correctly.

**Sydnee:** Yep. Yep. Alright. Well, thank you again, Rileigh.

**Rileigh:** Thank you all.

**Sydnee:** Listeners, you should check out *Camp Rock and Camp Rock 2*.

**Rileigh:** *The Final Jam*.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Um, thank you to Maximum Fun. You should go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the great shows there. You can tweet at us @stillbuff, and you can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

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

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

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

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

[theme music plays]

**Rileigh:** [singing quietly] 'Cause I'm too cool... [humming] I'm too cool.

**Sydnee:** Is that all you know? [wheeze-laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I was like, you sing a song. Right? C'mon, Rileigh.

**Rileigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** No.

[music ends]

[music plays]

**Janet:** Hi. I'm Janet Varney. And just like you, I survived high school. And we're not alone! On my podcast, *The JV Club*, I invite some of my friends to share the highs and lows of their teen years. Like moments with Aisha Tyler.

**Aisha:** When you're a kid, the stakes are just pretty low. Go to school, try not to get in trouble, get laid.

**Janet:** Jameela Jamil.

**Jameela:** I watched television probably every waking hour during that time when I was [censor bleep] faced on medicine.

**Janet:** And Dave Holmes.

**Dave:** We talked and talked, and then everybody left and it was just us two and I was like, "I love you."

**Janet:** Learn how you too can be a functioning adult after the drama and heartbreak of high school. Every week on *The JV Club* with Janet Varney. Find it on Maximum Fun, or wherever you get your podcasts. This is a judgment free show.

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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