Still Buffering 301: Jackass

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Teylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Rileigh, you had an exciting learning adventure last night.

Rileigh: I— yeah. It was a— it was a learning adventure on a Saturday night.

Sydnee: What did you learn on a Saturday night?

Rileigh: I learned about wine.

Teylor: Well, uh—

Sydnee: This sounds—[laughs quietly]

Teylor: I've learned about wine on many a Saturday night. That's a good way of phrasing it.

[all laugh]

Rileigh: No, no. No.

Sydnee: I was about to say, this just sounds like you drank wine.

Rileigh: No. There was a 26-page syllabus.

Teylor: Oh!

Rileigh: There was a PowerPoint presentation as we drank. It was a seminar. A full seminar.

Sydnee: I like the idea of a PowerPoint presentation about drinking. "Here's a wine. Here's another wine. Here's a third wine."

Rileigh: It was just— it was just many facts about the various wines we were drinking. Um... yeah.

Teylor: It sounds like a really enjoyable— I mean, I like this marriage of things. Here is some tasty wine, and then here is a PowerPoint slide about the tasty wine. That sounds great. More bars should do that, really. [laughs]

Rileigh: It was good. It was, um— the best part was that, you know, he gave us a syllabus and we had a little sheet to fill out about every wine, and then, uh, we had this big paper on, like, common tasting notes and aroma notes in wines. Like, different kinds of fruits and, um, mi— minerals, all those kinds of things.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. "This smells like, hmm... rock."

Rileigh: "Hmm, graphite." Um... but, I mean, he gave us that, and there were so many that really, by the time I had had, like, one or two glasses of wine, I realized, like, hmm, these all taste the same to me, when he was like, "So what notes does everyone taste?" I could just—

Sydnee: "[goofy voice] Grape!"

Rileigh: I could just say anything I wanted, and as long as I said it confidently he'd be like, "Hmm, mm-hmm, mm-hmm." The best one was when we tried a Chardonnay, and I drank it and I looked at the— the list of words and I said, "Butter."

Teylor: Yeah!

Rileigh: And he said, "Very good!" I was like, "Wow! I— that was—"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: "That was not intentional!" [laughs] It was— it was very smooth, but it didn't necessarily taste like butter. I was just like, "Hmm, [lip smacking]." It kind of leaves a little bit in my mouth, like a butter. [laughs]

Teylor: Well, that's when you have a— usually, when you have an oaked Chardonnay, you get a buttery note from the oak. That's an indication that it's been oaked. That's what that means.

Rileigh: Hmm, oaked.

Teylor: Hmm, yes, oak. Hmm, butter. Buttery oak.

Rileigh: It was— it was buttery.

Sydnee: My kids like to eat butter.

Rileigh: They do. Just on its own. We also— he did— he gave us cheeses.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Um, and told us which cheeses would taste best with the wines, which I enjoyed, 'cause I love cheese.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: And then he gave us a little dip when we got to the red wines, on little, like, toasted pieces— like, round pieces of bread. Um, that was, like, marinara and some cheeses... to dip and eat with the red wines.

Sydnee: That's a— that's a pizza you just described.

Rileigh: It was a pizza on a little tiny crunchy piece of bread that you could just dip the pizza stuff.

Teylor: Oh, like a Lunchable.

Rileigh: Yes, but warm?

Teylor: Okay. Alright.

Sydnee: He gave you a warm Lunchable?

Rileigh: No.

Teylor: A warm Lunchable pizza. [laughs]

Rileigh: Listen. Like, if you took a big—you took a big baguette, right? Like, real

bread.

Sydnee: Uh-huh?

Teylor: Okay.

Rileigh: And you cut it up into little slices.

Teylor: *Real* bread. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: And then you toast 'em till they're crunchy. Then you have a little—those are—that's one thing, okay? Then you have the little container that has been warmed and baked, that is marinara on the bottom, and topped with some, like, baked goat cheese and cream cheese with various herbs and seasonings. And then it's all baked together and warm.

Teylor: Deconstructed pizza.

Rileigh: Yes. In dip form.

Sydnee: Sort of like a bagel bite.

Rileigh: No! I—

Teylor: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: It's not like a Lunchable or a bagel bite!

Teylor: I think it's kind of like both. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: It was—

Sydnee: "[posh voice] Excuse me, Master sommelier, which of your, uh, wines

would go best with my bagel bites?"

Teylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: It was delicious, though.

Teylor: I love a robust red with a pizza roll.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: At first—

Sydnee: Perhaps a suggestion for my warmed pizza Lunchable.

Teylor: [giggles] Personally I like a buttery Chardonnay with my Hot Pocket.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I love Hot Pockets.

Teylor: [laughs] Well, you should— you should now try them with Chardonnay!

Rileigh: Now I want a Hot Pocket.

Sydnee: I've had the thought more than once in the last couple weeks, why when I grew up did I decide I couldn't eat hot pockets anymore? Like, as an adult is the time—

Rileigh: Don't say— don't say when you grew up. You were eating solely Hot Pockets for, like, the first half of my life! You were an adult the whole time.

Teylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Hmm. I— okay. In— in age—

Rileigh: When I was born, you were a legal adult.

Sydnee: In age—

Teylor: When did you quote, unquote, "grow up"? Two years ago?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, something like that.

Rileigh: I was gonna say, since you had kids?

Sydnee: Yeah, that's when I feel old.

Rileigh: Okay.

Sydnee: I feel grown up since I had kids.

Rileigh: I was gonna say, that was, like, the thing I knew about going to Sydnee's house when I was, like, seven or eight years old was there's gonna be Hot Pockets. [laughs]

Sydnee: We did. We had Hot Pockets, except then I decided it's time— you know what?

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It's time for us to get healthy. [laughs] Darn it.

Rileigh: We have Lean Pockets now! [laughs]

Sydnee: Lean Pockets only! [laughs]

Rileigh: I remember the first time you gave me a Lean Pocket and you said, "Now, these are Lean Pockets. They're a little bit different."

And I took a bite, and I looked at you, and I was like, "I... it's a Hot Pocket."

Teylor: It's the same.

Sydnee: Is it— is it—

Rileigh: It's a Hot Pocket.

Sydnee: The Lean Pocket— so, like, they have the, um, chicken broccoli cheddar Hot Pocket that I always liked, and the Lean Pocket version is turkey broccoli cheddar.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: [through laughter] That's the difference!

Rileigh: Also, the pizza — the pizza Lean Pockets and the pizza Hot Pockets? Same thing.

Sydnee: It's the same thing.

Rileigh: It's the same thing. Although, you know what? I think they used turkey pepperoni. [laughs]

Teylor: That's it. Just Big Turkey got involved.

Rileigh: It's a turkey. [laughs]

Teylor: Got its own line of Hot Pockets.

Sydnee: There is— there is this sort of connotation with turkey as healthy. I have noticed that.

Rileigh: Turkey hot dogs. Turkey pepperoni.

Sydnee: Like, if you see something with turkey it's like, well, it's healthy. It's turkey. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs] Turkey burger.

Sydnee: It's fine. It's turkey. Eat it.

Teylor: All those turkey lobbyists.

Sydnee: [laughs] Here in the US, when we think health, we think turkey.

[laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Hot Pockets. Anyways...

Sydnee: Anyways, so, did you have any Hot Pockets with your wine too, or...

Rileigh: I mean, I guess basically they were Hot Pockets.

Teylor: Now that you think of it.

Rileigh: Yeah. They were really good, though. I— like, I was trying to be all like, you know, fancy, and just kind of, like, "Hmm, I'll have a slice of this tiny cheese with a little cracker. Mmm, delicious. It pairs well with this white wine."

And then at that point, when they brought out the deconstructed Hot Pocket, it was, like, three glasses of white wine in. We were starting on the reds. And I was like, "You know what? I'm no longer just picking at the bits of cheese that will taste good with these wines. I just am going to continue eating all of these pieces of bread that are here."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Um, which I did.

Sydnee: Otherwise, you fail the wine test.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: Right.

Rileigh: And I did succeed. He had us do a blind taste test where he gave us a red wine, and we had to guess if it was old world or new world, and guess the price point. I got both right.

Sydnee: Wow!

Rileigh: So...

Sydnee: How much was it?

Rileigh: Uh, well... everything we had been drinking was between 15 and 30 dollars. And he said, "So, how much above or below or within that do you think it is?"

And I said, "I would guess it is significantly above."

And he said, like, "How much?"

And I said, "Mm, I don't know. Like... 80 bucks?"

It as 100, so I was close. And it was new world.

Sydnee: That's...

Rileigh: Old— old world— let me teach you—

Sydnee: Like California?

Rileigh: —let me teach you all. I mean, yeah, it is included. Old world is, like, all the places where wine making started, like Italy, France, all those areas right there together in Europe. Um, everything else is new world. And I guess the old world ones are more focused on the tradition of making it, and the new world ones are more like using science to make it taste good consistently and sell more, like California.

Teylor: I think it's— I mean, telling the difference in taste between that, I could understand. Telling the difference by the taste in the price I find a little sus. 'Cause, like—

Rileigh: It was a guess!

Teylor: Well, no, no, I mean, good job.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Teylor: You— you won. You won the wine game. But, uh— but, like... like, some wine is expensive and it sucks. Some wine is cheap and it's good. It makes no sense. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: That is what I appreciated about the point of that little taste test, because everything else we'd been trying, the most expensive one was, like, \$28. Um, and then except for this one we did a blind taste test, and the only reason I said more expensive was because I saw the bottle he had poured it out of, and I was like, "That looks like a fancy, special bottle. That looks like..."

'Cause it didn't have, like— you know, it didn't have, like, a logo or anything like that. It didn't have, like, a brand. It just had, like, a name.

Sydnee: And a bunch of dollar signs on it.

Rileigh: Exactly.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Um, no. It just-

Sydnee: You know that wine that just has a bunch of gold dollar signs all over it to tell you— so that everybody that looks at it is like, "Oh, that—"

Rileigh: "Oh, that's expensive."

Sydnee: "I can tell you're high class. That's expensive." [laughs]

Rileigh: But he basically said, you know, if you taste this and you think it tastes the same as all the ones we've been drinking, which I did think it tasted the same, then you don't need to spend all your money on wine. You can just buy the

cheaper stuff and then spend— hang around all the people that are willing to spend all the money on wine and drink the fancy stuff. You don't have to spend it yourself if you think it tastes the same.

Teylor: There you go.

Rileigh: So.

Sydnee: In— in a world where we have learned— we have all experienced, like, The Hunger Games and The Squid Games, and you were playing the wine games, did you worry that you were among the bourgeoisie? [laughs quietly] And the revolution is coming?

Rileigh: Umm... when I realized we all— now, looking back, we're all eating, you know, basically bagel bites, deconstructed Hot Pockets, I'm not too— I'm not worried about it.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's true.

Teylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: But yeah, it was nice.

Teylor: Yeah. Like, I feel like cheese, sauce, and bread exists at every, like, economic level. We call them different things. But everybody loves cheese, sauce, and bread. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah. Yeah, no, I've been thinking about that dip for almost 24 hours now.

Sydnee: I made wine in my closet once.

Teylor: Hmm.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Teylor: Well, that's not a good thing to usually try to do.

Rileigh: How'd it go?

Sydnee: No, it was bad. It was in college. We— for some reason we put it— I don't even know. I mean, I'm sure grapes were involved. We put some stuff in the bottle.

Rileigh: "I'm sure grapes were involved."

Sydnee: I have no recollection of what we thought we were putting with the grapes to turn it into wine. I don't think we had, like, yeast. Maybe we got yeast.

Rileigh: What'd you put in there?!

Sydnee: I'm not clear on that. I don't remember. I mean, I don't know. It... we probably didn't even google it. This may— no. I mean, I guess Google existed.

Teylor: What? Did you just let, like, fruit rot in a dark corner and call it wine?

Rileigh: Yeah, that's what it sounds like.

Sydnee: I think— I think that's sort of what we did, and we put a condom over the top of the bottle...

Teylor: [shudders]

Rileigh: Uh-huh?

Sydnee: ... and then it inflated and exploded, like, grape bits and... you know, spermicide—

Rileigh: [quietly] Okay.

Sydnee: —all over the... closet. Um...

Teylor: [laughs quietly] Now, those are some tasting notes.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Anyway, we did clean it all up, and we did not drink the wine, so all was well.

Teylor: Yeah. Yeah.

Rileigh: Was it?

Teylor: I would leave that— I would leave that to the professionals, you know? I feel like... I'm all about DIY stuff, but when it comes to DIY fermentation it's like, you might do it right, or you might poison your whole family. Ooh... [laughs]

Rileigh: You know who are professionals that do things that we shouldn't do?

Sydnee: Who's that?

Rileigh: Those guys on *Jackass*.

Teylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Hey!

Rileigh: There we go.

Teylor: What a smooth transi— transition. Uh, yeah.

Rileigh: Thank you.

Teylor: That is what I brought to the table this week. Uh, *Jackass*, the TV show and the series of movies. It's all kind of the same stuff. But, uh, it was an MTV show that started in 2000, ran for three seasons, and then had subsequent movies and sort of spin off shows from it. And it was a combination of, like, stunts and pranks, just kind of the same cast the whole time. You know.

Rileigh: I guess— I guess— I realize I just called them professionals but, I mean, were any of these— 'cause I genuinely don't know. Were any of them, like, trained stunt people? Or were they just professionals in the sense that, like, they were doing it on TV, and it usually said, like, "Hey, don't try this." But were they actually trained?

Sydnee: I mean, they were— some of them are skateboarders.

Teylor: Yeah. I think that was about as, like—

Rileigh: Okay.

Teylor: I believe— 'cause, like, the concept—

Sydnee: Steve-O was a... Steve-O was a clown at a flea market.

Teylor: Yeah. [laughs] That's great.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm just saying. I don't think he was doing stunts.

Teylor: He was a professional clown. Hey! There's a lot of training that goes into being a clown. They have schools.

Sydnee: Yeah, no, I'm not— I'm not saying there's not. I just mean I don't think he was... a stunt person.

Teylor: Yeah, 'cause John— Johnny Knoxville is, like, an aspiring actor and writer when he kind of came up, like, was just filming himself doing... stuff. And, like, caught the of people that were making skate videos, and they kind of, like... made hybrid videos of, like, skating and stunt work, and then it just kind of rolled into its own thing from there.

Sydnee: Well, and Bam Margera had a whole other group, right?

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: In... Philadelphia? Is that where he's from? Or somewhere in Pennsylvania. Anyway, he had his own group that was making these videos of doing wild stunts, and I feel like they combined with Johnny Knoxville and... [quietly] *Jackass*.

Rileigh: Jackass. Which we will be saying on our show.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: 'Cause it's the name of the thing.

Teylor: We can say one bad word.

Sydnee: And donkeys.

Rileigh: And donkeys. That's it.

Sydnee: Um, I love— it's so weird for me to think it was only three seasons,

because it felt like such a gigantic presence. Um, not just in, like—

Teylor: And it felt like it was always on.

Sydnee: Yes. And it was so culturally huge.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Everybody watched it. Everybody talked about it. All of the adults were

mad about it. Joe Lieberman was very mad about it. I remember that.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: He was a political figure from that era.

Teylor: Well, and, I mean, I would not say for, like, justifiable reasons of, like, "Oh, this shouldn't be on the air." But there were a lot of... I mean, now it's just like what happens when you have a TikTok craze make the rounds. You know? Like, everybody does it. Some people get hurt. Lots of young people hurt themselves trying to make their own *Jackass*. [laughs]

Rileigh: You know, I was thinking about that when I was watching this, and I know that they're coming out with a new one, or they have. I guess it's in theaters right now.

Sydnee: Jackass Forever.

Teylor: Yeah, it's really good. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah. I didn't— I haven't seen it, but I saw it just came out. And I was thinking, like, I don't think if it weren't for their previous, like, fame for this thing from the early 2000's, I don't think this is a new concept with a new group of people that would be made in a major movie platform now, because this is just like YouTube. Like, the way that they break it up into, like, little bits, like, one after another. Like, this could just be someone's YouTube channel that is made into, like, a full-length film with a bunch of videos. Like, that's why I— I know they do, because it's *Jackass* now, so, like, it's Johnny Knoxville and Steve-O and all the people that, like, people wanna see. But, um, but if it were just another group of people in, like, a new idea, I don't feel like it'd be made into a movie. I feel like they'd be like, "Well, no, this is just... you could watch this for free on YouTube. Why would people come pay to see this?"

Sydnee: Well, I think that you're exactly right. I think the reason for that, though, is that they sort of...

Rileigh: Started it.

Sydnee: ... started it.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, I'm sure other people were doing this kind of thing, but they were the ones who, you know, made it big.

Teylor: Well, and I mean, I do—like, 'cause there are those, like... I don't know. I don't keep up with, like, the YouTube... guys. The people that live in the houses. I know you know all this, Rileigh. [laughs] But, like—

Rileigh: The Hype Houses.

Teylor: Yeah. But they all seem to have— like, they all have a ton of money. Like, so much money. And, like— so they kind of— I mean, the thing about— I liked about *Jackass*, it felt very, like— like, these were just— you could believe that it's just a bunch of dudes with some cameras, like, just figuring this stuff out. Like, a la minute. Like, they were not— and, I mean, that's actually true. That was one of the production problems was they really weren't paid well for what they were doing, and for as big as the show got. Like, these dudes are really just, like, sacrificing their bodies for, you know, the show. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: They would get so hurt, or at least it looked like.

Rileigh: Oh yeah.

Teylor: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, the stunts were so intense.

Rileigh: Yeah. Um, I was thinking about, um, David Dobrik, who's a recent YouTuber who do vlogs, who started out just videoing himself and his friends doing stupid things, much like *Jackass*. They didn't have a ton of money, it was just them doing, like, stupid stunts and pranks on each other. Um, but then he did make a lot of money from becoming popular during that, and then he became the worst kind of person to watch, because then it was him, like, talking his friends into doing the dangerous, stupid things—

Sydnee: Oh, no.

Rileigh: —for money. [laughs quietly] So he didn't have to do them. But then his friends would get seriously hurt because of the things he was doing. Um, and because they had, like, the money to get outrageous equipment, or whatever. It stopped feeling fun to watch. It started feeling like, "Well, this feels... gross."

Sydnee: Sure.

Teylor: Well, that's like— 'cause it does— I feel like that's what I like— *Jackass* could be mean-spirited, but I don't think it is. It feels like everybody's in on the

joke. Like, they are all along for the ride, and anybody that doesn't want to be doesn't have to be. There's not that weird, like, I don't know, machoism of like, "[dudebro voice] I can take it. I can do it."

It's like, I don't know. They're just... they're all doing it together.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well and I think— I think that that— really, it— for me, it always seemed, like, to come from Johnny Knoxville. 'Cause he always just seemed like—well, one, he seemed smarter and more savvy than you would expect for, like, what it was. Like, doing dumb stunts that could hurt you. It doesn't sound like the brainchild of, like... [laughs quietly] you know, somebody who's this, like, clever artist or something. But it really came across that way. Like, he came across as, like, he knew what he was doing. It was very intentional. And he never seemed—he seemed like a decent guy.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Who just— and he was always in there getting hurt too.

Rileigh: Yeah, they all— yeah.

Sydnee: Like, you know, he was doing it.

Teylor: He took some of the hardest hits.

Rileigh: They all took turns.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah. It was never like there was one guy saying "I came up with this, now you all do it."

It was like every single— it was alternating between who was getting the worst of it every single time.

Sydnee: And it was different. You know, I, um— I really liked Bam Margera.

[laughs]

Teylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Back then.

Teylor: You did!

Sydnee: I was— I was a huge Bam fan. Like, I had the Bam trucker hat and

everything.

Rileigh: [quietly] Oh, man.

Teylor: You need to find that.

Rileigh: Did you—

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Did you have na— like, a name? The Bam— the Bam fans? Did you

have a name?

Sydnee: I don't know if we had a name.

Rileigh: I just thought that there's something there.

Sydnee: There— I'm sure there is. I don't— Ba— Ba—

Teylor: The Bam fam?

Sydnee: Bam— Bam—

Rileigh: Bam fam.

Sydnee: The Bam fam. Uh, no. I just really— I really liked Bam. And, uh, he backed out of stunts sometimes. He was one who would be like, "Nah, I'm not

gonna do this."

But that was something that, like, he did a show, a spin off, *Viva La Bam*, which was— had some of the same things. But then he also sometimes would kind of go over into that, like— with his parents, he would do, like, pranks and stuff on his parents that did sometimes seem a little mean.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: That— I was rewatching the first movie last night, and, like, there's some of his skits with his parents. And I don't, like... I don't know if I, uh— yeah. That— that feels like these are just some people trying to go to, like, their jobs, and their... jerk son keeps [laughs] messing with them. Like, that's not—

Rileigh: Yeah!

Teylor: I don't enjoy that as much.

Rileigh: They don't seem in on it. Everyone else is in on it when it happens to them. They don't seem like they're... [snorts] like, cool with it. They didn't agree beforehand.

Sydnee: They're trying to be good sports about it sometimes, but they're not, you know... they're not loving it. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um... I— I want to talk more about some of the specific stuff that we all love from *Jackass*. But before we do that...

Rileigh: Let's check the group message.

So, I have someone I wanna tell you all about.

Sydnee: Someone?

Rileigh: In the grou— something.

Sydnee: Oh, okay.

Rileigh: Some—like—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: I mean, there are someones... that created the something. Probably. But, I mean, the— the— anyways, I wanna talk about Function of Beauty.

Teylor: Alright.

Rileigh: Um, because over quarantine, being inside a lot, I had a lot of time to watch a lot of TikToks and videos about how make my hair look better, because it's always one of things. Like, you go get your hair done, and it looks so great, and then it never seems to look as good again when you do it yourself. So I wanted to know how I make my hair look better, um, and take care of it better. And that is when I discovered Function of Beauty. Because everyone's hair is different and unique, uh, and Function of Beauty is the world's first fully customizable hair care that creates individually filled shampoos, conditioners, styling, and treatment formulas based on your hair now and where you want it to go.

They offer over 54 trillion possible formulations. Oh my gosh. And every one of them is vegan and cruelty-free, and they never use sulfates or parabens, so you feel good about what you're putting on your hair, and you know it is formulated specifically for you.

And it's very easy. All you have to do is you take their quick hair quiz to build your hair profile. Uh, they'll ask you questions like the texture of your hair, the length of your hair, um, if you have a dry scalp, oily scalp, stuff like that. Uh, and then you select five hair goals, like lengthen, volumize, oil control. Then you get to choose your color and your fragrance, or you can go dye and fragrance free. I know for me personally I like picking the purple one, and then the lavender scent. Um, 'cause then the color matches the scent, but also it just smells very nice. Um, but they have lots of options for you, whatever your hair goals and needs are.

So, Tey, if our listeners want to check out Function of Beauty, what should they do?

Teylor: Well, say goodbye to generic hair care for good today! Go to functionofbeauty.com/buffering to take your hair goals quiz, and you'll save 25% on your first order. Go to functionofbeauty.com/buffering to let them know you heard it from our show, and to get 25% off your first order. Once again, that's functionofbeauty.com/buffering to take your hair quiz and save 25% on your first order.

Sydnee: So, when I was thinking about some of the *Jackass*... I don't wanna say sketches. I guess vignettes?

Teylor: Bits?

Rileigh: Bits and goofs.

Sydnee: Bits. Um, do you remember the one— it wasn't one of my favorites, but I remember— I remember it very clearly, 'cause I remember thinking, like, "Oh, these guys are kind of a big deal."

Do you remember the one where they were, like, skateboarding around and running around in gorilla suits?

Teylor: Yeah. Yeah. And at the end one of the gorilla's heads falls off and it's Brad Pitt!

Sydnee: I still remember that moment, because I remember thinking, "[gasps loudly] They hang out with Brad Pitt?"

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "Oh my gosh. They're such a big deal!" Like, there was no— there was no bigger deal than Brad Pitt at that point, and so, like, oh my gosh. These guys are really onto something. [laughs]

Rileigh: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Teylor: Well, they had a lot of, like, weird celebrity guests throughout. I mean, that's what I liked about the new movie. They bring in some— some cool random

people to be in on it. I don't know. I guess it makes sense. Like, it was a cool thing now. It's still a cool thing to like, just, to be a part of, you know?

Rileigh: Well, I like— there was one in the second movie where they were skateboarding, or some of them are riding bikes, I think, actually. Um, on, like, a— like, a half pipe. Like, those kind of regular skateboard structures. But then they have, like, people throwing things at the and swinging things at them while they're going through, and none of 'em actually make it through.

And you're watching them do this, and then they just casually pan over to Tony Hawk standing there laughing at them while they're doing it.

[all laugh quietly]

Rileigh: And it's like, oh, Tony Hawk's been there the whole time. Okay, cool.

Sydnee: He would show up periodically.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Um, one of my favorites is— is it from one of the movies when they do the giant hand in the doorway?

Teylor: [laughs] You do love the big hand.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: The— the big hand. Oh. Oh, it always got me.

Rileigh: You love that big hand.

Sydnee: And when they have— when they have 'em— like, they'll ask one of the guys to, like, "Hey, carry this tray of soup [laughs quietly]... "

Teylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] And then— and— and they'll have them—

Rileigh: You are cracking yourself up!

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm picturing it! They have a lunch tray—

Rileigh: Reciting a *Jackass* sketch!

Sydnee: —covered in little bowls of soup, and they're walking through a doorway, and then they get with a giant hand! [laughs] And they knock the [laughs] soup everywhere!

Teylor: [through laughter] Sydnee?

Sydnee: There's something very precious about— it's like— it's like, dumb. It's like, it's a giant hand and it's gonna knock somebody over. Okay, whatever. But then they're like, "What would make it funnier? Well, what if they spilled something? Okay, that's funny. What should they spill?"

Rileigh: Soup.

Sydnee: Soup. [wheezes]

Teylor: [laughs] They give them a bunch of soup.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Let's give them a bunch of little bowls of soup! It's the details that make it so good! It's— it's so good.

Teylor: They bring the giant hand back for the new movie.

Rileigh: Really?

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I gotta see the new movie. I hadn't seen it yet.

Teylor: Depending on how you feel about Machine Gun Kelly, you might really enjoy that skit. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Man, I gotta watch that.

Sydnee: I don't know enough about him to have an opinion. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Um, one that really stuck with me rewatching these that I had forgotten— I guess I had seen at that some point— that made me so physically pained I had to stop and, like, take a walk around my room, um, was when Steve-O gets in the water with sharks.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: And they're fishing for sharks with Steve-O as bait. But to put him on the line that they put him in the ocean, he sticks a fishhook through his own cheek.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Like, from the inside through the outside. And I st— I see him start to do it, and you're like, "There's no way he's gonna... there's no way he's gonna keep doing that."

But then of course he does, until it goes all the way through, and then he's in the water, like, a foot away from three different big sharks. And I was sitting there watching like, I don't— I— I would— this— this isn't just like, "Oh, this could go wrong and he could, like, get kicked in the crotch or, like, you know, he'd get a little bit hurt."

Like, that's really— that's really bad!

Teylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: He could get really hurt! One of the guys while they're filming is like, "I thought this was a comedy! He could die!"

And I was like, "No, but yeah, really!" [laughs]

Teylor: There were— yeah.

Sydnee: I always used to think, like, that was one thing I always wished I could do when I was younger is— 'cause I knew I wanted to be a doctor. Not put a fishhook through my cheek.

Rileigh: That's what I was— okay.

Sydnee: No. Be, like—be the doctor.

Rileigh: [laughs] Be the Jackass doctor.

Sydnee: Be the *Jackass* doctor.

Teylor: [crosstalk] Dr. Jackass.

Sydnee: I always thought about that. Like, well, 'cause it got— it stemmed from— like, I saw that documentary where they showed, like, the doctors who go to, like, big rock festivals and, like, take care of people. And I was like, "That's so cool."

And then I started thinking, like, oh, I bet they have a doctor at *Jackass*. Like, I bet they have to have. Like, when they're filming, surely they have a medical professional on site.

Rileigh: I'd think so.

Sydnee: Wouldn't that be a — wouldn't that be a fun job? You get to hang out with Johnny Knoxville and Steve-O.

Rileigh: Although it makes you wonder, though, sometimes, if they do have a doctor. Because there's one where Bam gets branded on his butt.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: And he goes and shows his parents three days later, and they show the brand on his butt, and it looks, like, *really* infected and really bad.

Teylor: Ugh.

Rileigh: Like, his mom is like, "Bam, that looks really bad!"

He's like, "Well, yeah, mom! I got branded!"

But, like, it looks very, very bad.

Sydnee: Well, maybe they didn't. I don't know.

Rileigh: Dr. Jackass was not paying attention for that one.

Sydnee: It's also the kind of thing where, like, you know how in a— in a duel you had the—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —you were supposed to have the doctor turn around?

Rileigh: So they could have plausible deniability.

Sydnee: Do you think, like, the doctor on the set of *Jackass* [through laughter] has to turn their back?

Rileigh: Well, maybe.

Sydnee: So they're not watching the stuff? And then just, like... "Oh, get 'em to turn around, get 'em to turn around! We need his help real quick!" [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Then he can walk over and be like, "Oh! What happened here?"

Rileigh: "How did that happen?"

Teylor: He's got his own trailer. They just— you know. You sit in here. We won't tell you what's happening. We'll just call you if we need you. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: See, I wanna be— I'd be like, "Listen. It's— my lips are sealed. It stays right here."

Rileigh: Let me see! [laughs]

Sydnee: Let me see. I won't say anything. I'll fix you up. [laughs]

Rileigh: Um, there is a— there is a question at the heart of *Jackass* when you're watching that you can't help but think, I think, in my opinion. And that is, if you had to do one of these things, would you rather do one of 'em where you have to ingest something really gross— 'cause they do that a lot too.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Like, either to each other or, like, you know, they'll say they'll do it. Or they get hurt. And usually, like, they're not getting hurt anything where it's, like, permanent. Like, it hurts really bad, and then they end up with, like, some bruises or something, but, like, then they're fine.

And I could not decide whether I would rather have to ingest something really gross that you have to endure, or just a really quick, real painful thing that you're not doing to yourself. You don't really expect it. It just happens, and then it's over.

Sydnee: Do I break any bones?

Rileigh: I mean, no, because they usually don't.

Sydnee: Okay.

Rileigh: So I feel like if you're— like, an average Jackass goof is—

Sydnee: Like getting ramped in a lake in a variety of manners.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Or, like, something thrown at you that, like, you know, bruises you or leaves you with a little bit of a mark.

Sydnee: I'd rather get hurt than—

Rileigh: I think I would too!

Sydnee: —than eat something gross. Assuming no broken bones. Once you put a broken bone into the equation, I'd rather eat the gross thing. But if I'm assuming no broken bone. [laughs quietly]

Teylor: I don't know.

Sydnee: [laughs] Teylor's thinking about it.

Teylor: Well, because, like, they're not— you're not gonna consume anything that's gonna, like, mess you up. It's just gonna be gross.

Rileigh: Right.

Teylor: But, like, there's always that— 'cause it's not like there wasn't a margin of error with a lot of their stunts. I mean, a lot of the times they got hurt the most, it seemed like something that was pretty benign. Like, the— the go— the infamous golf cart crash.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Teylor: Where Johnny Knoxville is concussed. And, I mean, they're just driving golf carts and running into stuff. Like, you never know. There's always, like, that margin of error where you could just absolutely destroy yourself, because they're not wearing pads. They're not wearing helmets.

Rileigh: That's true.

Teylor: I-

Sydnee: Do you remember— oh, were you gonna tell us? Had you settled?

Teylor: Oh, no. I was just saying— well, I think I would— I think I would do a gro— I— I would eat something gross before I risk physical pain.

Rileigh: Interesting.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Rileigh: I think I'd rather get physically injured.

Sydnee: Some of that stuff I just couldn't put in my mouth. I just don't think I could do it.

Rileigh: That's the thing. 'Cause then you have to do it— you have to do it to yourself. That's what's hard is, like, if I'm gonna stand there, or someone's gonna launch me into a lake, it's like, at least I'm not the one pulling the trigger here.

But if I have to be the one responsible for ingesting this gross thing, I don't think I'd ever actually do it. [laughs quietly]

Teylor: That's fair.

Sydnee: Um, do you remember when they used to play— did they call it crotch

ball?

Teylor: [laughs] I think so.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: You remember that?

Teylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: We, um... [laughs] this is in college, so I don't have any excuse. We used to sit around and, like, we talked about it. It was my friends and I. [laughs] And, uh, we— we decided that for us, crotch ball would not be as intense, from my personal experience on this planet. And, uh, so we used to play boob ball?

Rileigh: [quietly] Oh my god.

Sydnee: And we would sit in a circle and, like, try to pelt each other in the chest with things. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [scoffs]

Sydnee: If you get— I mean, if you get hit right in the nipple, it doesn't feel

good.

Teylor: No!

Rileigh: No, it hurts! But, like, it's the motive behind wanting to do that.

Sydnee: I don't think it's, like, the same as getting hit in the scrotum, but I

don't know. [laughs]

Rileigh: You look like you wanna know!

Sydnee: Well, I'm just—[laughs] I don't wanna know! I'm just curious. I couldn't

come up with a comparable... anyway, we used to sit around and play that.

Teylor: Huh.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: That reminds me of when I really enjoyed— that was when they did dodgeball with medicine balls in the dark. And it was just like the night camera, just them in the dark throwing giant heavy medicine balls at each other, but also just kind of throwing them aimlessly, because they can't see anything? God, that's good.

[all laugh quietly]

Teylor: Like, why is it— why is it so entertaining to see, like— 'cause it's not funny to see people in pain. But it is funny to see these dudes just wreck

themselves. But, like— I mean, 'cause even when you— you know, like, even when you do it with each other, like, you laugh. It's fun. I don't know.

I mean, I feel like by comparison, like, when I would go to, like, punk shows and, like, get in the pit and everybody would just beat the crap out of each other, there was a joy to it that I can't fully understand.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know if it's like some sort of weird, like, survival thing. Like, I got hurt, but I'm alive. I feel so good. That rush of endorphins. Like... [laughs quietly]

Teylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I did something that may have been the end of me and it wasn't the end of me, and now we all feel really good about it, and we just wanna keep re-experiencing that? I don't know if that's—

Rileigh: That's true. And, like, you know if you're watching it, especially one of the movies where it's all of 'em, you know that they're not gonna get hurt too bad, 'cause you're watching it. Like, you're not about to watch someone do something that's gonna [laughs quietly] end their life.

Sydnee: But I don't know why we did—like, I don't know—I mean, and this is—I guess this is another thing that goes along with talking about *Jackass*. Part of the whole thing with *Jackass*, the cultural phenomenon around it, is how many kids tried the stuff they saw.

Rileigh: I'm sure.

Sydnee: Now, I wonder how many actually did, and how much of that was, like, sort of a hysteria on the part of—

Rileigh: Parents being upset about it.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, because— I mean, that's always been the way with, like, whether it's a violent TV show, or video game, or movie, or music, or whatever, like, oh, it's to blame for stuff, when really, like, well, no, that's just humanity.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know. But, um— but there was a huge outcry. Like, we can't— it was— you couldn't show it on TV before... what, 10 o' clock or something?

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Because— so kids wouldn't replicate it, 'cause they were— 'cause they were blaming all of these injuries and even, like, deaths across the country. Like, well, kids were trying this stuff they saw on *Jackass*. But they had that disclaimer. I mean, they always... not that matters.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Teylor: Well, I mean, like, legally, probably.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think it matters legally.

Rileigh: Absolves them of any responsibility, probably, but...

Sydnee: But to a teenager...

Rileigh: Yeah. I always think that's funny when they, um, put that on a TikTok. It's like an automatic thing they'll put on some of 'em if, like, their algorithm or their bots or whatever detect that there is some sort of dangerous activity in it. There's just an automatic little banner across the bottom. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Teylor: "Do not try this. Whatever it is. I don't know. I'm a robot. But I'm pretty sure you shouldn't try this."

Rileigh: I'm pretty sure there's something here you shouldn't try.

Sydnee: Whatever this is, don't do it.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Isn't it weird to think that, like, to protect kids from seeing that, they put it on after 10 o' clock, and now we live in the era of YouTube?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, I don't know.

Rileigh: That's just everywhere all the time.

Sydnee: It's such a great— it's such a great— like, it's a perfect representation of why, instead of shielding your children from things that you're afraid will influence them negatively, you should, like, talk to them about [laughs] how to— how to be happy and healthy and, like, take the best care of themselves, in a world where they're going to be confronted with things that, you know, are challenging or might, you know, ha— lead them to make unhealthy decisions. Like... [laughs]

Rileigh: Also, young people are just going to have stupid ideas, without seeing them replicated by someone else.

Sydnee: Well, yeah.

Teylor: That's true.

Rileigh: They're just going to think, "This would be so cool! Don't you think this would be cool? Let's try this."

And then they end up with, like, a broken arm. Like, that— that's just— I think that's just part of human— humans.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Yeah. But I do— I mean... [laughs quietly] I do like— there's a, like... I mean, I think it was always there, from all the way, like, the original *Jackass*, and it's definitely, I think, something that they've embraced. But there were some articles that came out around the new movie about, like, how they feel about the fact that they have a significant gay following. Like, there's a lot of queer people that really like *Jackass*, and is that weird? And do they every think about how kind of vaguely homoerotic some of the stuff they do is?

And they're all just like, "No, absolutely. What are you— it's not vague at all! I'm insulted that you think it's vague." [laughs] Like...

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: No.

Teylor: Like, this is— that's part of the process.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and I mean, I guess it is, like... I don't—[sighs] in that context you don't often see, like, something that— okay. It comes across as very stereotypically, like, um... straight guy to do, like, stunts. Like, that's a very, like, oh, okay. They're doing their stunts.

Rileigh: Those kind of stunts.

Sydnee: Yeah. They're like dudes.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, the dudes. But, like, to pair that with them all sort of occasionally being naked together... [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It is— it is, like— that's not the norm. I mean, it is a very— it is challenging a paradigm.

Teylor: Well, it's definitely not, like— 'cause they do this— like, whatever stunt they're doing, it's never, like, "Look how tough I am. I can take it."

Like, they are always, like, in pain, or vomiting, or crying, or passing out because of the pain. Like, you know? And, I don't know, especially how much of the... not for nothing, how much of the kind of pain is centered around, like, [laughs quietly] male genitals. Or, you know, like...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: I think that that's... that's kind of like, hey, they don't— you know. It seems not, like, stereotypically toxically masculine, because these guys are just as likely to, like, blow their own junk of as, you know, [laughs] do anything else.

Sydnee: They don't— they're not seeking to protect their penises. That's a very interesting, um, paper you could write on that. [laughs] Like—

Rileigh: That's gonna be my capstone.

Teylor: I think it's— I think it's— it's a— it's— yes. It's a radically subversive, uh, freedom, to see a young man... risk his penis. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: You're so right! There was one where they— uh, it was the same one that Bam said he wouldn't do. And it was Johnny Knoxville. It was like, "Alright, fine, I'll do it."

And he's standing in front of this big thing that's gonna pelt a bunch of tiny rubber balls at them at, like, super, super fast. Like, hundreds of them. Um, and

he covers his face. He's like, "I don't care about the rest of me, as long as my face is fine."

And afterwards he's, like, lifting up his shirt and his pants and showing, like, all these welts and everything, and all bruises and bleeding. And he's like, "But my face is fine, right? Like, is my face— it didn't— they didn't hit my face. No? Okay, I'm good."

[through laughter] Like, that's all he cares about!

Sydnee: That's pretty funny.

Teylor: Yeah. Well, like— I feel like Chris Pontius's whole thing was just always like, he's just always wearing, like, lingerie or a bikini or something. Like, just... that would just be, like, a skit. And it wasn't really played for a laugh. It's just like, here's a dude doing cool stuff on a skateboard in a bikini. Sure. [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, no. I always got the impression he just, like, liked to wear bikinis.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, he just—[laughs] he felt good. He felt good in 'em, so he wore 'em. Yeah, no, I could definitely see that. I mean, and that really is why— I always thought it was weird. Like, why do I like this show? This does not on the surface feel like something I should enjoy, but I always truly enjoyed *Jackass*, 'cause I thought it was— and maybe that's me making an excuse. [laughs quietly] For the fact that, like, on some base level we just like to see people get hurt?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And laugh about it. Get hurt, and think it's funny and, like, not— you know, not really get hurt. But, like—

Rileigh: Not be seriously injured, yeah.

Sydnee: —get hurt in that context. Maybe I'm just making an excuse for that. But, like, to my mind, like, it was more high-minded than that. [through laughter] It was... [laughs]

Teylor: I mean—

Sydnee: It was more.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Teylor: It made— there was—[laughs quietly] like, it was subversive, it was confrontational. I think especially in the early 2000's. I mean, you had such, like, a "No homo bro" kind of atmosphere. And this was, like, a bunch of dudes that were kind of like, "Yes, absolutely homo. More!" [laughs] Like... that was really—like, they— it was punk rock, you know? That's the difference, I think. And that's just— it felt like it was made for anyone that's kind of a little weirdo.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Well, and definitely I think you can see the inspiration of it today in, like, I don't know, 80% of YouTube.

Rileigh: All of social media?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Yeah. For sure.

Sydnee: Well, Teylor, I'm glad that you had us watch *Jackass*.

Rileigh: Me too.

Teylor: Thank you.

Sydnee: 'Cause I love *Jackass*, and I can't wait to see the new movie.

Rileigh: Yeah, I'm very excited.

Teylor: It's really good, yeah. I also just— I just want all of— everything Johnny Knoxville wears, specifically in the new movie. I'm like, there— there— there. That's my—[through laughter] that's my style icon.

Rileigh: That's my aesthetic.

Teylor: Johnny Knoxville.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Well, Rileigh.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: What's next?

Rileigh: Well... [laughs] something a little different. Um, so I was trying to think back to movies I like, and then I've been rewatching *New Girl*. I was like, "Oh, you know what? Zooey Deschanel did things before *New Girl*." And one of the favorite things of mine that she did before *New Girl* is *500 Days of Summer*.

Sydnee: Did you just say "[posh voice] One of the favorite things."

Rileigh: [mumbling] One of the favorite things she did before *New Girl*.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Um, was 500 Days of Summer, with her and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, so.

Sydnee: I love little Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

Rileigh: I know!

Teylor: Little Joseph Gordon-Levitt?

Rileigh: Little Justin?

Teylor: That little guy.

Sydnee: Jos— lil— Joseph— lil— mm, I love that lil guy.

Rileigh: [laughs] Lil boy.

Teylor: That little guy!

Sydnee: Remember when he did all that dancin'?

Rileigh: Huh?

Sydnee: Love that lil guy.

Teylor: What? Sure.

[all laugh]

Sydnee: Oh, I'm so tired! It's been a long week! [laughs]

Rileigh: Anyways...

Sydnee: Alright. Well, then we'll watch that.

Rileigh: Alright.

Sydnee: And, thank you. Thank you both. Thank you—

Rileigh: Thank you, Tey.

Sydnee: Thank you, Tey.

Teylor: Thank you.

Sydnee: Thank you, listeners. Thank you, Jackass for all the laughs and injuries.

Tears.

Teylor: [laughs quietly] Thank you, *Jackass*.

Sydnee: Thank you, *Jackass*. Uh, and you should—

Teylor: You gotta savor being able to say a bad word.

Rileigh: I know!

Sydnee: I know! Say it a few more times just for good measure. Uh, you should go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the great podcasts there. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. 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.

Teylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Rileigh: I am still buffering...

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

[theme music plays]

Sydnee: That was your last opportunity.

Teylor: Jackass, Jackass, Jackass.

[music plays]

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