

## Still Buffering 304: "Perfect Blue" (1997)

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[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Raleigh:** And this is my big loud water bottle. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I know.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Is that what that was?

**Sydnee:** You started us off with a big ol' slurp, there.

**Raleigh:** I don't know why it— I don't know why it does a... [quiet slurp noise]

**Sydnee:** Oh, no! Don't do that!

**Taylor:** Oh, oh don't— no!

**Raleigh:** Why does it do that?

**Sydnee:** Don't do that to the listener!

**Raleigh:** But why does it make that noise after I've—

**Taylor:** —sounds listeners wanna hear.

**Raleigh:** Why does it make that noise after I just take a sippy?

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

**Raleigh:** There's something wrong with the suction in there.

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

**Taylor:** Don't do that.

**Raleigh:** This is my emotional support water bottle.

**Taylor:** This is anti-ASMR now. [laughs] Make the worst sounds possible.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Hey, Raleigh? If you're gonna spew... spew in this. [laughs quietly]  
[silence] Then I needed to hand you a little paper cup, but I don't have one.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I was just prepared.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh. It doesn't work as well, though.

**Sydnee:** No. [laughs] I have an empty Diet Dr. Pepper can, here.

**Raleigh:** I don't want that.

**Sydnee:** That'd be a trick.

**Raleigh:** That'd be a trick. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] We have a no-spew guarantee for this podcast.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yes. Slurping, spewing, just good stuff. Good stuff so far, y'all.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** We're doing great. All the sounds.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] All the— all the sounds you can possibly make on a podcast. Um, Raleigh just needs some french fries from Taco Bell, and she'll be fine.

**Raleigh:** I just want nacho fries from Taco Bell and I'll be great. That's all I want right now. That's all I've been thinking about since I woke up at 8: 30 this morning.

**Taylor:** Raleigh had a big fancy party last night.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** It was. I should clarify, it was a nerd party, so it's not like it was a wild rager. It was the annual symposium we have for our scholarship event. That's just, like, all the people in the scholarship program and alums and professors and faculty members. Um, we have a big fancy dinner. It was that kind of event. It was not a rager.

But I'm in the graduating class, so it was, like, *our* symposium, 'cause it's, like, planned by the seniors, and it's about us. So it was *our* symposium, and I hung out with the other seven people in my class afterwards, and we just were all reminiscing on the good times, and the memories, and then while we continued to have some... *bev-rah-ges*.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** *Bev-rah-ges*.

**Sydnee:** *Bev-rah-ges*.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** *Bev-rah-jeys*.

**Sydnee:** This is a new one for me.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. *Bev-rah-ges*.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** No, it was a— it was a— I mean, sort of... it was as fancy as events get here.

**Rileigh:** In Huntington.

**Sydnee:** In Huntington.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. We were like, "Where's the fanciest place we can pick? Ah, the country club." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Right there on a golf course.

**Rileigh:** Yep.

**Taylor:** That sounds fancy.

**Rileigh:** Literally right in the middle of it. Yeah. I mean, it's— it's... fan— it's as fancy as we get.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Here.

**Sydnee:** There was, like, chicken *and* ham, so... [laughs] this is—

**Rileigh:** And meatballs.

**Sydnee:** —this is West Virginia fancy! You can have chicken, ham, or meatballs. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh, wow.

**Rileigh:** Your kids loved it.

**Sydnee:** There was a pasta bar, so my children were... yes.

**Rileigh:** And there were two different kinds of spirally noodles, and they let the little kids go up to get their food first, and Charlie wanted me to go with her to get her food, and she could only kinda see up to the buffet table. And I was like,

"Alright, Charlie. There's two shapes of noodles, but they both look the same. Like, they're both plain. So, which one you want?"

And she said, "Which one's spirally?"

And I said, "Well, I hate to break it to you. They both are."

'Cause one was, like, the actual, like, rotini? Like, the— like, little screw-looking, like, spiral.

**Sydnee:** Yeah?

**Rleigh:** But one was, like, a big... what's the one that's, like, a double macaroni? Like if you took two macaronis and—

**Sydnee:** I know what you're—

**Rleigh:** —like, kind of made a swirl out of 'em? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I know what you mean.

**Rleigh:** This is good content.

**Sydnee:** Is that rigatoni?

**Rleigh:** [through laughter] No. That's just a tube.

**Sydnee:** I have no idea. I know what you mean. It's like a big macaroni.

**Rleigh:** It's like a big mac— it was just both of those, and they both were spirally. And she said, "Well, give 'em both to me." Of course. So I did. But she only ate one shape. They both were buttered noodles but she said, "I only like this kind."

And I said, "You don't like the other shape of plain buttered noodles?"

And she said, "I would eat them if they were the last noodles on Earth."

[all laugh]

**Raleigh:** She said if it was just me and these noodles, I'd eat 'em.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** If it was just me and these noodles. Did you also see their reaction— both of my children, when they saw that the pats of butter were shaped—

**Raleigh:** Were shaped like roses?

**Sydnee:** [laughs] They were like, "Look, mom! The— the butter's a rose!"

**Raleigh:** Charlie was just standing there pointing, going "What is that? What is that? What is that?"

And I hadn't gotten down there yet. I was still putting stuff on her plate. I was like, "Hold on. Hold on."

And I looked, I was like, "Oh, that's butter."

And she said, "But it looks like a flower!"

And I was like, "Yeah, they do that sometimes."

And she said, "Put it on my roll!"

And I said, "Well, you don't want me to spread it out, right?"

And she said, "No! Just put it on top!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's what— she was just carrying the roll around with the little pat of butter on top going, "Look at this! Look at this!" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** The pinnacle of fancy for small children, this event was. [through laughter] Two kinds of noodles, and the butter was shaped like flowers.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** They're gonna be talking about that for a week. She said that this morning. She was like, "I'm gonna tell everybody at school about Symposium."

**Raleigh:** Oh my gosh.

**Sydnee:** I was like, "You go for it."

**Taylor:** That's adorable.

**Raleigh:** And Cooper I'm pretty sure conned me into giving her double desserts, 'cause she had a— they had, like, tiny little brownies, and they had some cookies. And I saw her with both of them, and I saw her eating them, but then she said she lost them.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And I was like, I think by— and, I mean, she told Mom. Mom was like, "Oh, you need more!"

And I think by "lost them" she meant "I ate them."

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** But she wanted more. So Mom was like, "Well, baby sis'll take you to go get more desserts."

So of course I took her up there. I was like, "Okay, I guess." And I said, "Do you want a brownie or a cookie?"

And she said, "Before I had a brownie *and* a cookie."

And I said, "Did you lose both of them?"

She said, "I lost both of them."

I said, "Okay, here's another brownie and a cookie." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Now, Raleigh, you're the one that's gonna be the lawyer. I think that there's some wiggle room in her using the word "lost" there. I don't think she was wrong. They— they—

**Rileigh:** You're right.

**Taylor:** —go a place where she can't retrieve them.

**Rileigh:** They are lost now. Forever.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Now, I will say, though. The thing with Cooper is, she may have eaten them and was trying to trick you into giving her more, or they may be under that table right now.

**Rileigh:** [laughs] That's true.

**Sydnee:** I mean, that— you—

**Rileigh:** Or in someone's purse, or... yeah.

**Sydnee:** They might be in my purse.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Because she does do that. Like, she'll put things places. And she was under the table a lot. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** She goes under the table a lot.

**Sydnee:** So that's fine.

**Rileigh:** It was good.

**Sydnee:** You can take us out in public.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You can take us places.

**Rileigh:** To be fair, that's the first time she's been to, like, a thing with people, like, in her whole life.



**Sydnee:** I mean, in her memory, yeah.

**Raleigh:** In her memory.

**Sydnee:** I mean, because the last time she would've done anything like that was pre-pandemic.

**Taylor:** I miss being small enough that it was socially acceptable to just crawl under the table when you're bored with the co—

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** [laughs] I don't know. I feel like that usually when I go out to dinner. Just like, "Okay, I'm done here. I've eaten my food, and now we're just supposed to talk? And I don't wanna do that. Can I just crawl under the table and wait it out?"

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk] Trying that as a grownup. "Excuse me, everyone." Then you just crawl under the table. And everybody's waiting for you to come back out, thinking, like, you dropped something or whatever. And they're like...

**Raleigh:** Nope.

**Taylor:** I'm just taking some me time.

**Sydnee:** "Are— are you... are you okay?"

"Mm-hmm. Yep."

**Taylor:** "Just got my Switch down here. It's good."

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] "Do you need anything?"

"Nope."

"Are you sick?"

"Mm-mm."

**Raleigh:** The best part is that Cooper's so tiny sitting at a regular sized table, half the time I don't even notice she's gone under the table. Like, you don't see her, like, kind of slide herself under there. 'Cause, I mean, we're adults. We'd have to, like, contort our bodies to go under the table. She can just kind of, like, lean back and slide, and there she goes. And I'll just look around like, "Oh, wait. Cooper's gone. And there's no— all the adults are here. Where is Cooper?"

It's like, oh, don't worry. She's under the table. She's right here.

**Sydnee:** They're so different. 'Cause Cooper's like— she's doing weird stuff. She's hiding under the table. She's, like— she'll pop up between, like, me and Justin, like, just her head and be like, "Ahhh!" under the table.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And meanwhile Charlie is like, "Can I go around the room and introduce myself to everyone? Can I go talk to those people? Who are they? I'd like to go say hi." [laughs] Like...

**Raleigh:** We were getting all the different kinds of noodles and one of my classmates were there, and they all know of Charlie and Cooper of course, but they hadn't seen them in a very long time, since our freshman symposium three years ago. And we were getting food, and he said, "Hey, Charlie! It's good to see you!"

And he remembered her. There is no way she remembered him. And she went, "Hey! It's good to see you too! I'm Charlie McElroy. I'm Charlie Gayle McElroy."

And he said, "I know." And he named himself. He was like— and she said, "It's nice to meet you!"

And I was like, "Charlie, you're more sociable than I am."

**Sydnee:** She is.

**Raleigh:** I don't talk to people like that.

**Sydnee:** She asked. She said, "Can I just walk around the room and talk to people?" And I'm like, "Well, not by yourself." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "You're seven!"

**Sydnee:** Can you see, like, there's just this... very polite—

**Raleigh:** They were the only small children, too.

**Sydnee:** —seven-year-old wandering around the room saying "Hi, how are you? My name's Charlie Gayle McElroy. What are— are you enjoying dinner?" [laughs]

**Taylor:** She recognized it as a networking event, I think.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's what she was trying—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** She was going, "Have you tried the butter?" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "It's shaped like a rose."

**Raleigh:** "Shaped like a rose."

**Sydnee:** "Have you noticed? I'd recommend that noodle."

**Raleigh:** "Not the other one."

**Sydnee:** "That one's better." Uh, anyway.

**Raleigh:** Anyways.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Um... speak— uh... I got— I don't—

**Sydnee:** Transition us.

**Taylor:** I... I...

**Sydnee:** Teylor.

**Teylor:** I got— I got nothing. Uh... um... I— this week I wanted to talk about one of my favorite anime psychological thriller movies, *Perfect Blue*. It's a—

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Teylor:** It was released in '99, directed by Satoshi Kon, who's directed a ton of amazing animated movies. Um, has influenced— so many, like, mainstream American successes have been influenced by, maybe outright just lifted scenes from his work, including *Perfect Blue*.

Uh, it's a huge influence on *Black Swan*, which I think you can see after having watched that movie. It's like a direct scene that's copied in *Requiem for a Dream* from *Perfect Blue*. So, very impactful director and film.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that was, um... that was— it's interesting, because I had no— I knew nothing about this movie going in, had never heard of it, no familiarity, didn't know the plot ahead of time, just watched it. Um, and that was one of the first thoughts I had is, "Oh, this is sort of like *Black Swan*." Um, and so I was surprised after I watched it when I was reading, like, "Oh, okay. That's c— that comparison has been drawn a lot." And the— I guess the director of *Black Swan* denies it?

**Teylor:** No, no. He has met with the director of *Perfect Blue*.

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

**Teylor:** Yeah, it's...

**Sydnee:** Oh, I didn't realize that. I thought that was controversial.

**Teylor:** Like, it's kind of a— it's not really a remake. It's got elements that inspired him but, you know, I think... I think if these were movies that were the same level of famous in the same country, that would be a bit more controversial. I think that it's kind of a, "Here's really creative stuff, but it's far enough removed from America that I can just lift from it directly and say 'Oh, it was an inspiration.'"

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, Justin actually was the one that pointed that out, and showed us a little clip that was like the scene from *Black Swan* right above— like, playing above the one from *Perfect Blue*, and it was crazy how, like, exact it was.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. There— there are multiple scenes that look... the same. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Very inspirational, clearly. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Which I don't know how I didn't get until one of y'all pointed it out to me. I was like, "Oh, wait!" But that just didn't cross my mind. Although to be fair, the only time I've seen *Black Swan* was... many, many years ago, when I was too young to be watching it and it kind of freaked me out.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um... so...

**Taylor:** Well, and this—

**Sydnee:** Yeah. That was— we had to— we had to rush Cooper out of the room pretty quickly when I was watching this movie.

**Rileigh:** [laughs] She said—

**Taylor:** I— what?! You—

**Rileigh:** —"I'm scared," and you said, "What scared you?" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I didn't know what I was watching!

**Taylor:** I absolutely warned you.

**Sydnee:** I realized. I did not...

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I— I moved— I— she— she was— she's fine. She was not damaged.

**Raleigh:** No, she was fine.

**Sydnee:** But I— but I—[laughs]

**Taylor:** There is a—

**Sydnee:** I mean, you know, early in the movie you've just got, like, you know, pop stars singing and dancing on stage in pretty dresses so, like... you know.

**Raleigh:** Well, that's how all horror movies start! They all start with something, like, happy and good. It's like, "Well, if we could just stay here for the rest of the movie that'd be nice, but then we wouldn't be watching a horror movie."

**Sydnee:** There are people fighting, and there's bleeding, and she loves fighting and bleeding.

**Raleigh:** She loves bleeding.

**Taylor:** There's a lot of bleeding in this movie.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Oh, man. Oh, that's towards the end. We'll get to it later. It was a bleeding moment that I thought was particularly...

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] Particularly bloody.

**Raleigh:** ... bloody.

**Sydnee:** Bloody.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** No, she did not see any of that. She saw the very beginning and then I realized, like, "This is not... "

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's hard. I mean, I really think it's hard for, uh, kids— like, Charlie and Cooper do not understand, if I am watching something animated I think they assume it's for kids. I think it's just such a— it's such a difference, culturally. Like, they're not used to seeing me watch something animated independently. And so they assume, like, "Oh, okay. Well, this is for us."

It's like, "No, absolutely not."

**Raleigh:** Definitely not.

**Sydnee:** Not for you.

**Taylor:** Well, and that's definitely— I mean, the first— and I saw *Perfect Blue* for the first time years ago, and that was one of the first— I mean, I'd watched a lot of anime, but even though anime can have very adult themes and, you know, it can be made for adults, this was the first, like, work that I felt I saw that was... it really is just— it is a psychological thriller, it's just using the medium of animation instead of live action.

Like, it... you know. It's— it's taking advantage of the medium in some of the ways. Like, I don't know if you could replicate it in live action, but I do think that is— that is something unique about it is that it's... you know. If you're a fan of psychological thrillers, you will like this, however you feel about anime.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, I think it really— I mean, certainly in live action movies they are able to accomplish that sense of, like, what's real, what's fake, what is our protagonist, what are they dreaming or hallucinating or, you know, and what is real? Um, you can do that with live action, but I don't— I don't know that it would ever be quite to the extent that I feel like they achieve with *Perfect Blue*.

Like, scenes where I am— I was watching thinking, like, "What is happening?" Like, I, you know, you feel the characters' confusion and loss of sense of reality because you also share it, because you're able to do that with animation in a way that, you know, real human bodies just don't.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I mean, there's that suspension of disbelief with everything that's animated where it's like, if you're watching a horror movie that's live action and someone starts, like, levitating or something, I don't know, that, like, pulls you out of it. It's like, okay, well, this has stopped being that scary because obviously this is not, like, in reality.

But you already know that when you're watching something animated going in. You don't expect it to be, like, reality. It's— it's animation. Um, so it gives you... which I did note, when she starts floating at the end. Like, not floating but, like, kind of... floating.

**Sydnee:** She is floating, yeah.

**Rileigh:** Levitating. Um, moving in floating... strides. I was like, if this were a real live action movie I just would immediately think that was silly. But because I don't need to worry about what's realistic, this is great. This is whimsical.

**Sydnee:** Um, I also feel like it— because— I don't know, this is my— again, and this is because for me I don't watch a ton of animated stuff that's just for adults. But the fact that it wasn't live action made me actually more nervous. It added to the suspense for me, 'cause I felt like there were fewer rules.

**Rileigh:** Really? Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:** I feel like in the world of animation, like, because real people aren't doing this stuff, it also makes it feel like the rules of reality are not necessarily applicable. And so I felt like everybody was a little less safe, and the stakes were higher, because... I don't know. But that was my sense.

Like, just because of the way I experience the medium. Like, oh, anything could happen. Oh, this could get really bad. Like, you know, maybe she is murdering people. I don't know. Like, anything could be happening.

**Rileigh:** Right.



**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, and I do think that— I mean, especially when things— I guess I should give kind of a— the briefest synopsis, 'cause it's... a lot.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Oh yeah. Yeah.

**Taylor:** It's basically the story of a young pop star who's making the transition, sort of leaving her pop star idol past behind to transition into a serious actress. And she sort of is going through a bit of a breakdown as this is happening, because she has a stalker, there's this other— there's a website that's sort of presenting itself as her.

There's a lot of stuff that's kind of messing with her sense of self as she tries to make this transition in her career and in her own persona. Uh, and there's just the— the gradual breakdown of— of her as she changes. Um, and there's a lot more to it than that that happens alongside of it. But I do think that that's, like— there is kind of a moment where you— the... the cutting that they do, like when they keep going back and forth between the artificial cuts of, like, the movie filming and then her life, and keeps, like, redoing it, where you really just kind of lose hold on any sense of reality, that I do think that would be hard to replicate in, like, a live action sense. Like, you just don't really know what— how long have we not been seeing reality? When in fact you've been seeing reality the whole time.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. That— yeah. And that— I think what's clever is— to, you know, expand on the plot a little bit, the— the show she's filming that she has now gotten hired to act on is, like, a murder show. Like, a... reminded me of, like, a CSI kind of thing. Is that the vibe? Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, and so there's people being murdered on the show. There are people being murdered around her. And so, like, the whole thing becomes even more difficult to follow. Like, who— wait. Does— hold on. Who just died? Was that real? Um, which is a really clever way of doing that, I thought.

**Raleigh:** Which, you know, you say that like— and I agree, you couldn't get that same sense of, like, blurring the lines as much with a live action movie between what's real and what's fake. And Syd, you said that it's, like, a little bit more...

scary for you, 'cause there are no rules of, like, when there are live action people. But this is the only— this is the first movie I have seen that is an animated movie that is a horror movie. I feel like the animation medium is not used as often for stories like that. I don't know why. Maybe I'm just, you know, not aware of them.

**Sydnee:** Well, it's just not— I mean, I think it's cultural. Not here.

**Raleigh:** Well, here. Sure, sure.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Um, but I don't know why people here don't take advantage of that as much, because I feel like it is a good medium for telling scary stories and horror movies and thrillers and, um... I don't know. Yeah, that definitely is a cultural thing, but I don't know why here people don't do that more.

**Taylor:** Well, I think we're— I mean, we're getting there. But it's always— you know. You get, like, indie movies or, like, shorts that are animated that are scary. There's a really good— like, some of the segments in, like, *The ABCs of Death* that are animated that I think are really well done.

But I do— I like that it just— it is ta— it takes itself seriously in what it's doing, and that was the director's vision, you know? It was kind of like, I could make— like, I have a budget for, like, a B-rate live action film or, like, an A-grade animated film. I would rather make this movie animated than live action.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, and it really— like, if you have— if your story is compelling enough, which it is, then, you know, the— whatever the medium is, you're gonna be able to connect with people. But I really think it adds to this. Um... which, I don't know. I mean, I guess if you draw a direct comparison, it would be *Black Swan*. Like, what would this look like if it was live action? I mean, obviously—

**Raleigh:** *Black Swan*.

**Sydnee:** —slightly different plot and everything, but it would look very similar to that. Um...

**Taylor:** I mean, I—

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

**Taylor:** —I think specifically for the way that this presents itself, I mean, using this kind of female idol character as your main character in animation I think adds another layer to it, because of just how... I don't know. Like, you know, how much people love their, you know, their animated girlfriends.

And, like, that this character is sort of idealized by all these men, these male fans that she has. I mean, I think using a cartoon character for that, somebody who really is— like, they don't exist in reality. They're just there to fulfill our desires. Like, having her agency sort of being questioned in the film is really interesting, because it adds kind of another— a sort of... I don't know. A bit of a thought of how we process, like... fictional characters a bit more.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It does, it does. And a lot of the, um— there are moments throughout it where she is in a position— especially when she's, like, nude or partially nude, that is like... you feel kind of, like, voyeuristic watching the movie. And I think— I have to assume that's intentional. Like, you've gotten to know this character, but also now we're showing you this image that is a very, like, stereotypical kind of graphic image, you know, of this beautiful young girl who's just here for you to look at. And it's uncomfortable in moments.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, it is. 'Cause, you know, in a lot of, like, anime, there's what we call fan service. I don't know that I feel... [laughs] let me describe to my sisters what fan service. is. Uh, but you know, it's like just moments that are kind of purposely like, sexy, or like, you get, like, an upskirt shot. And it's not recognized in the reality of the thing you're watching. It's just there for you that's viewing the cartoon to, like, have a moment of like, ooh, you know, that was hot.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, yeah.

**Taylor:** And I think it is interesting that this kind of turns the camera back around on the viewer in that sense, 'cause you are made to be uncomfortable in

those moments that would usually be, like, a fan service. moment. Like, oh no. I mean, it's true in horror movies too, right? Like, the— the girl that'll get— she'll get her shirt ripped in a very specific way so you can see her breasts. And then it's like, oh, this girl's being stalked and murdered but oh, also her boobs are showing. Like, I feel like this movie is purposeful in how it shoots that that, like, you never— it's very uncomfortable in all of those moments, and it's meant to be.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That makes sense.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, 'cause it's highlight— it is exploitative, and it— like, what she is going through is exploitative, and that is evident in the way that you're en— you know, encountering it. Um, I wanna talk more about exactly, like, why you like the movie so much, Tey, why this was something that you wanted to talk about specifically. But before we do that...

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

**Sydnee:** Uh, so here's the thing. You all know me pretty well, and I know you all pretty well. But no matter how well you know somebody, there are always stories that they haven't told you. Everybody has so many stories. There are always more stories, fascinating things about their lives that you may not know, no matter how well you feel like you already know them, and that's why Storyworth exists.

It's an online service that helps you and your loved ones connect through sharing stories and memories and preserves them for years to come. Storyworth is really easy to use. I've used it.

Every week, Storyworth will email your loved one— so whoever you would like to learn more about, somebody that— and again, it can be somebody that is a close friend, or somebody that you want to learn more about that you don't know a ton about already, or somebody that, you know, like a sibling, a parent, somebody that you know super well, but you know there's other stuff about their life that you just— you've never heard those stories.

They will email that person a thought-provoking question of your choice from a vast pool of possible options. Um, each unique prompt asks questions you've never thought, like something— like what is one of your fondest childhood

memories? So just something that you wouldn't typically ask, like, your dad in conversation.

**Raleigh:** And our dad loves it, 'cause he loves telling us stories.

**Sydnee:** Exactly. Um, and this will give you the opportunity— this will give your dad the opportunity to tell you a story that isn't about something he saw in the obituaries.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** There you go. [laughs] That's what our dad does.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] So Sto—

**Raleigh:** How about yours?

**Sydnee:** —Storyworth can fix that for you. [laughs quietly] Like, like Storyworth fixed it for us. Um, after a year Storyworth will compile all those questions and stories, including photos, into a beautiful keepsake book that the whole family can share for generations. So, Taylor, if our listeners want to check out Storyworth, what should they do?

**Taylor:** Get to know your loved ones better and preserve those special moments forever with Storyworth. Right now, for a limited time, you can save \$10 on your first purchase when you go to [storyworth.com/stillbuffering](https://storyworth.com/stillbuffering). That's S-T-O-R-Y-W-O-R-T-H.com/stillbuffering to save \$10 on your first purchase. Once again, that's [storyworth.com/stillbuffering](https://storyworth.com/stillbuffering).

**Raleigh:** So, I got in the habit for a while, after I do my workouts, of getting in the car, and then I'd have to sit and finish my little protein shake before I can start driving, because I just wanted to, like, kind of get it out of the way, 'cause it didn't taste great. But I was like, I need some protein, it's a quick way to get it, I guess. Not the best, most flavorful thing, but I'll just chug it. I'll get it over with. Another story that dad shared that I learned from him, a trait we share.

And I was like, you know what? I need to find something that gives me this same protein but tastes good. I need to find something that I actually will enjoy consuming after a workout. And that's why I started eating Magic Spoon. It's not an actual spoon. That's the name. It's cereal, but it's called...

**Sydnee:** That makes more sense.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I didn't eat—

**Sydnee:** With a spoon.

**Raleigh:** With a spoon.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Or sometimes I just eat it dry with my hands. 'Cause that's also good. Um—

**Sydnee:** Those— those are both fine. We won't tell you how to eat Magic Spoon. You decide.

**Raleigh:** Thank you. Um, and that's because Magic Spoon has no sugar, and it has 13 to 14 grams of protein, so it's something you can— it tastes great, and you can feel good about eating it. And like I said, I replaced my protein shakes that I didn't enjoy drinking as much with something I really like snacking on and eating.

Um, and it is gluten free, grain free, and soy free, so fits all of your needs, if that's something that you need to be aware of. And all the flavors that I mentioned, you can build your own box of a custom bundle. Choose from flavors like cocoa, fruity, frosted, peanut butter, blueberry, cinnamon, cookies and cream, and maple waffle.

**Sydnee:** Mmmm.

**Raleigh:** Which sounds delicious. I have to say, personally I do like the fruity. Um, that's my favorite, but they all are great. There are lots of combinations, like mixing the cocoa with peanut butter tastes like a peanut butter cup. Lots of great combos you can try in there. I bet the blueberry and maple waffle would be good. They'd be like blueberry waffles.

**Sydnee:** Ooh, that would be good.

**Rileigh:** That would be good. Um, and it tastes exactly like all the cereals you loved from your childhood, but it's super nutritious, so you don't have to feel like you're eating all that sugar, um, in the morning to start your day. So Tey, if our listeners want to check out Magic Spoon, what should they do?

**Taylor:** Uh, go to [magicspoon.com/buffering](https://magicspoon.com/buffering) to grab a custom bundle of cereal, and be sure to use our promo code "buffering" at checkout to save \$5 off your order. And Magic Spoon is so confident in their product, it's backed with a 100% happiness guarantee, so if you don't like it for any reason, they'll refund your money, no questions asked. Remember, get your next delicious bowl of cereal at [magicspoon.com/buffering](https://magicspoon.com/buffering), and use the code "buffering" to save \$5 off.

**Sydnee:** So Tey, aside from the fact that, I mean, it's a really good movie, it's really well done, and it also, like, as not just a psychological thriller but as, like, a murder mystery, um, I didn't know what was happening until the end.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, it really— I mean, at least for me, maybe you all figured it out, but... [laughs]

**Rileigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** It succeeded for me. Like, I didn't— I didn't know what the result was gonna be, who committed the murders, and what was actually going on with our main character. Like, was any of it— what was real? What was fake? I really was confused. Um, but aside from those, like, obvious reasons, why did you pick this movie?

**Taylor:** Well, um, I mean, it made a huge impact on me 'cause it was kind of a combination of two things that I love. I've always loved horror movies, and I also love anime. And I also think that it's sort of— it's, you know, and the way that we just talked about with, like, you know... I don't know. Idols, like, cartoon idols.

Like, it's a bit of a self-aware send up of that, but also in the horror movie genre. I love, like— like, that's why I like *Scream* so much, 'cause it's kind of— it's self-aware. It knows the medium that it's set in, and it's playing with those tropes. I think if you kind of look at it through that scope of, like, the final girl, um, who, you know, there are certain rules you have to follow to be a final girl. You know,

you have to be innocent. You kind of have to be, like— like, the— the protected, like, loving one.

And really this is sort of a send up of that, because as she starts to establish herself and maybe, like, lose her innocent, good girl image, uh, she— I mean, that's the thing that kind of saves her, is her ability to fight for herself, to defend herself, to, like, allow herself to become a new version of her. And I think it's sort of... it's smart, how it takes on that kind of final girl innocence idea and sort of turns it around. Um, gives the final girl agency in her own existence.

**Sydnee:** Um, it is nice too that, like, because— I mean, for a while— I mean, I don't— was I the only one who was, like, fooled for a while? Like, I did think maybe she was murdering people or, like—

**Raleigh:** Oh yeah.

**Sydnee:** —had... two personalities that, like, she killed her own fish maybe.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, I mean, what—

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** Okay. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I think they do a good job of wanting you to think that.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** Like, wanting to trick you in that way. 'Cause, I mean, then they subvert it, and they wanna... they wanna getcha.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Well, I just wanted to make sure it wasn't just me. Like, I really was—[laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Which, again, may have been informed by the fact that I kept thinking, like, "Oh, this is like *Black Swan*." You know. Um, but, uh, but I kinda— I liked



that they didn't end up— like, that wasn't the solution. I mean, I guess we're sort of spoiling the movie. That's not what's going on.

And I liked that, though, because I feel like the idea of a young woman sort of being forced into one mold, realizing it's not right for her, and wanting to go a new direction, and having to take chances and work hard to do that, even when there's pressure not to, I feel like the idea that that would immediately cause, um... her to, like, murder people... [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** You know? Like, that she wouldn't be able to handle it. Like, that of course it would be stressful, of course you would have to, like, process it. Of course that, at times, that could, you know, cause you to second guess and question. But it's not necessarily something that she couldn't achieve.

It *is* something she can achieve, and she does by the end, which is sort of, like you said, more like a horror movie where, like, she is tough and strong enough by the end, even if she was the good girl, the quiet girl, the bookish girl, whatever the— whatever our typical horror movie final girl usually starts out to be.

**Raleigh:** It's like that, uh— that "Good for her" like, thriller movie trope.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Thriller movies like, um... um, oh, what was the one with the— that just came out? I— this is an awful bit of content, but it's the one where the woman, like, inherits all the— *Knives Out*.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Like, that kind of movie. Or— or *Gone Girl*, or anything like that. Like, the woman is— it's not your stereotypical final girl of a thriller movie. And, um, she still gets that moment at the end of, like, that "Oh, good for her. She got her moment," or she got her revenge, or she got whatever. Um, it definitely falls into that sort of category, I think.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** Oh, go ahead.

**Taylor:** Oh no, I was gonna slightly different topic, so say what you were gonna say.

**Sydnee:** Well, I was just gonna say, the problem was not her.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** The problem was outside her, which I liked that, yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah. 'Cause, like, you know, sort of more to the spoiler point, this— there's a web— another smart thing about this movie is it predicted toxic internet fandom [through laughter] long before it became a problem.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

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

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Taylor:** 'Cause, you know, the computer is sort of introduced as this new thing that— the internet is this new thing that people are interacting with in this movie. I mean, this is '99. This is, you know, pretty early on in, like, the internet days.

So, uh, there's a website that's sort of a fan page for her as pop idol that has a diary that is presented as if she's writing it, and it starts to cause this break. One of those sort of suspicions that you think she's the one behind it is she reads it, and sometimes seems to be longing, like, like... "I wish this would me," or "What would the other me be doing right now? The me that would've stayed as a pop idol?"

And it sort of presents this other. You find out that somebody else is writing this that's close to her, that's sort of obsessed with her. There are a couple— there's also, like, a stalker that's being manipulated to fulfill the... you know. O— like, you know, other people are doing this, not her. But I think that that's a whole other element, that the— the her online and, like, the her in other people's minds

is this thing that she can't control, and that's threatening her existence as herself, which I think is really only a thing that we've started to talk about recently. [laughs] As far as your online persona versus you.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. And, you know, I guess watching it to me, it's like that was very identifiable as, like, a realistic thing. But when you said that, that that was before... the— that kind of internet usage was a thing, I didn't even think about that. 'Cause I'm watching it, you know, for the first time, through today's eyes. Um, that's really interesting that that existed in that form. That feels so accurate to today, before that was as common.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. That's really true, because that, um... I hadn't even thought about that. It didn't occur to me when I was first watching and she was really struggling, and they were— the way they were talking about the internet I was like, "What is happening? Oh, this is '99. Okay." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I had a moment of like, "Is this a world where there's no internet? Or what is the—" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Yes. Pre-2000.

**Sydnee:** 1999, yes. [laughs]

**Taylor:** But, I mean, the idea that the perception that other people have of you through social media can destroy you, and in this movie in a very real sense, that's a very... that was a very pre— like, smart prediction on where we'd go [through laughter] in society.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Or that, like, the you that is most desirable, or valuable, or should exist, is not up to you. Like, the idea, like, "I know you wanna do this new thing for you, and this is a choice you've made, but everyone else has decided otherwise, and so we're going to kill the new you in order for the old you to continue to survive because we liked it better."

Which I will say, that final scene too— well, the fi— not the final scene but, like, the sequence when, uh, she's being chased and, you know, Rumi is the character's name. We're just spoiling the movie, aren't we?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I mean...

**Taylor:** I mean, it's...

**Rileigh:** I think with movies that have been out for a certain amount of years, I think that's okay, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Taylor:** You had 23 years to see this movie.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's a good point. Uh, when she is chasing her, and as she keeps looking back at her, she's fluctuating between her real self, or this vision. Like, she's chasing herself, but her pop idol self is chasing her new self. Um, when she is floating towards her and, like, sort of leaping from building to building gracefully, and then she's carrying an umbrella... [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, and that whole sequence I was thinking about like, "Oh my God, this is supremely upsetting." Like, it is! It's creepy, it's disturbing, it's scary, it's intense. Um, and it really is in a way that, like— because she is being pursued in a way that it's unrealistic. Like, there's no way this person could have followed her through this, but it— I don't know. I just thought it was so well done and upsetting, and I really didn't know where we were going.

She also— she also seemed like the size of her, like she seemed really tall and, like, larger than the other. Like, the perspective kept skewing? I don't know. I just found it very effective.

**Rileigh:** Well, and that sequence had that scene I mentioned that was like, I thought the bleeding was particularly, like, gruesome.

**Sydnee:** The bleeding. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** 'Cause it just kind of, like— you hear, like, a stab, I guess. And then there's nothing, and then it's just kind of all at once, like, goosh. Like, blood. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Just all at once. Um, but it also—

**Sydnee:** Not really how bleeding works, but... [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Well, Sydnee.

**Taylor:** That's— that's— that's some good anime blood.

**Rileigh:** People don't flut, either. Floa— float, either.

**Sydnee:** That's true.

**Rileigh:** Um, but Tey, I hadn't even thought about it until you described it earlier, but it had one of those, like, fan service moments you were talking about right there. As she's kind of, like, stumbling away and she bends over and, like, her skirt— you know what I mean? Like, you see, like, her... bottom. Her— her butt, if you will.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** You see under her skirt. But, I mean, it's not, like, in a particularly... sexy way, because she is, like, literally stumbling away as she is bleeding into the street. Like, it's very, like, gruesome. Um, but I thought that was interesting, that you get that moment that's like, "Oh, wait. Why are we... going here now?" But now that you described that sort of, like, idea, that makes a lot more sense that that was, uh— that moment was there.

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah, I think those, and then a couple of the different scenes where she is up on the stage. Like, she does the filmed, like, stripper scene, but then, like, there are a couple references to that where, like, her shirt is torn open and she's, like, sort of falling... kind of gracefully, with her head thrown back. And, I mean, and it's very— like, and it's in a scene of sexual assault and violence and, you know, it's upsetting, but, like, it's clearly— the way that it's depicted it's like, "Oh, oh, okay. I see— yeah."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's very uncomfortable.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Well, and I mean, it's interesting in the sense that, you know, her going from pop idol to an actress... an actress seems to be the thing that she desires to do, but she's still kind of moving from commodity to commodity, in the way that people treat her.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Which is a bit— like, I think that the movie kind of ends on a... I don't know a positive note. That's a bit of a stretch. But you feel like "Oh, good. She's allowed to be herself." But there is still this sort of, like, frame around it of, she's still— she's just changed into some— the— the— something else that is meant to be viewed and consumed, which doesn't feel great because of how that was presented to us, you know?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. It was a bit ominous also, that ending right there.

**Sydnee:** I thought that was ominous. And I do think, like, it's really on the nose, but, I mean, it's true. The fact that she's like, "I really wanna be an actress," and she gets this teeny, teeny part, like, with a line, and then, like, her next chance— like, okay, fine. You want a bigger part? Here's what the scene is.

And it's, you know, a really violent sexual scene. Like, if you want— this is— this is what you have to go through if you want to be an actress. Which is— I mean, I'm not an actress, but I imagine there are a lot of people who pursue that career who would say that feels very fami— not literally, necessarily, but you know what

I mean? Like, that is what it takes if you wanna be a woman and pursue that, there you go.

**Rileigh:** Well, and that putting yourself in those scenes and in those characters messes with your continued sense of, like, reality afterwards, I have to imagine. Like, living in that moment multiple times to shoot a scene or shoot a film or a show or whatever, and then trying to separate that, that you just, I mean, lived through— it's acting, but, I mean, you did, like— you are having to look like you are experiencing this kind of thing, and then go back to reality. I have to imagine that sort of feeling that you see in her is relatable for a lot of actors as well.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Um, but, you know, overall I have to say, Tey, I was really impressed—

**Rileigh:** Me too.

**Sydnee:** —because, um, it— I am— like I said, I don't watch a ton of anime on my own, usually because you have suggested it. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And I was really impressed how I often forgot, like... it just felt like a really well-done horror, psychological thriller, and I— the medium was not so much, like, the big thing for— I don't know. I always found, like, that was a bit of a barrier for me, to be completely honest.

And I know I always take a lot of flack for saying this on the internet, but it just is. I watch a lot of animated stuff with my kids. I tend to have this sort of break in my brain. Like, "Okay, now the kids are asleep. It's time for adult time. I want to watch some live action, you know, humans doing stuff."

And I know that's my own thing. This is not judgment. But, like, I really— this transcended that for me.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, I'm glad you feel that way. And, I mean, you know, I've made this argument before on this show about how sometimes the best form for something

isn't always a live action film, you know? Sometimes a comic is at its best in its original form as a comic.

And it's really about using— like, different mediums offer up different advantages, and so taking advantages of that— what that medium has to offer is how you make something good. And I think that this isn't just it happens to be animated. It's purposely animated, and the animation is making it better than it could be in ways that, you know, film couldn't reproduce.

I mean, even, like, the way that people are drawn. Like, you were mentioning, like, the one character getting sort of taller when she's chasing her. But even, like, the distortion of faces that subtly happens that kind of is creepy, you know? Like, the way, like, eyes—

**Rileigh:** Yes, very unsettling.

**Taylor:** —sometimes seem too far apart on the face. Like, that kind of stuff that you just— you couldn't... that— that subtle weirdness that just couldn't be there. Yeah, I feel like it's meant to be an animated film. Every now and then I see, like, an article pop up that's like "A *Perfect Blue* live action remake is under— under, you know... "

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** I was like, "No, please don't— don't do it!" [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Just watch this one.

**Sydnee:** Well, it's not needed. It's perfect the way it is. Like, why would you— you know?

**Rileigh:** Well, and again, it's like you said earlier. It's not exactly the same, but if you wanted to see this kind of general story told in live action, then watch *Black Swan*. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Which is— you know, which is also an excellent movie.



**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** This wasn't me saying— you know. But, um, the only other thing I'm— I did mean to— before we're done, I really appreciated that when you figure out who the murderer actually is, and especially the reasons she's doing it, she was a former pop idol that— I mean, like, it— I mean, what I— the sense I get is like, society got done with her. She got old. She was less attractive. We're done with you now. You don't get to— we're not going to celebrate you and love you anymore because you don't look like we want you to look, so we're done with you.

**Rileigh:** Taylor Swift wrote a song about that.

**Sydnee:** Well, there you go.

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** This is what she was talking about.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] About *Perfect Blue*?

[all laugh]

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** But, like, the fact that at the end she is not... um, I feel like in a lot of American films, she would either be in jail— I mean, she murdered people. So she would either be in jail, or she would've been killed in that final scene.

**Rileigh:** That's what I was expecting.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Or if she was put into some sort of psychiatric facility, don't you feel like that in American movies, the trope at the end would be her, like... tied to a bed, you know?

**Taylor:** Like Nancy in *The Craft*.

**Sydnee:** Exactly! That was exactly the vision I had. Like, something very violent and upsetting, and still really negative. As opposed to, "This person has severe mental illness. Yes, she did these terrible things, but she needs to be in this psychiatric facility because she has this severe mental illness," and she's being treated like she is ill.

Um, I really liked that moment at the end because it was like, oh. Well, that's a very humane depiction of what should be happening in soci— I don't know. I just really appreciated that little note, which probably is very normal for, I don't know, maybe the Japanese audience. But in the US, it isn't.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** And even that the main character visits her and, you know, like, checks in on her. I don't know. Because there is that level of, like, she made the successful transition from pop idol to something else, so she can continue on and exist and have a career.

Rumi did not, and so that's why she was kind of stuck, and that's... once again, I don't think it's a happy ending. I think there's other stuff there that's still kind of depressing about the system that these women are stuck in. But I do like that there's this sort of weird solidarity at the end between them.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. And she brings her flowers so that she can continue to imagine herself as a pop idol. Yeah, no, I agree. It's not happy, but it is more humane.

**Raleigh:** It's more peaceful.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Well, thank you, Tey.

**Taylor:** Thank you.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, thank you, I did really enjoy watching this, and it is something—again, I say this a lot with things both of you bring, um, something I never would have watched probably otherwise, just 'cause I didn't know it existed.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, same here.

**Raleigh:** Um, so thank you.

**Taylor:** That makes me really happy.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But of course, for any— once again, anybody that checks it out because of this, massive content warnings. There is violence, bleeding, sexual content. It's a deeply uncomfortable movie sometimes.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Like, sexual assault scenes, um, and yeah. So definitely be aware of that. It's subbed and dubbed, so whatever you prefer. Um, alright! Well, what's— what's next?

**Raleigh:** So—[laughs] very different direction. Um, I was listening to my early 2000's bangers playlist on the way here.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And, um, "Last Friday Night" by Katy Perry came on. I realized we had not talked about Katy Perry, even though she was, like, instrumental in my tweendom.

**Sydnee:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** Um, so I thought we could talk about Katy Perry, and specifically her album, um, *Teenage Dream*. So.

**Sydnee:** Alright. We will talk about Katy Perry next week. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes we will.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** I— I like it! We like to keep our listeners guessing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** Yeah. You never know [through laughter]

**Raleigh:** Gotta spice it up.

**Sydnee:** Right when you think we're gonna zig, we zag.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I listen to music other than Taylor Swift.

**Taylor:** Hey.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** They even feuded for a bit.

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** And they dressed as food and reunited.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] There you go.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Love that for them.

**Sydnee:** Alright. Well, uh, thank you listeners. Um, you should watch *Perfect Blue*, of course considering the content warnings that Taylor mentioned. It was very excellent. Very thrilling. Don't show it to your children.

**Taylor:** No. Not for kids.

**Sydnee:** Not for kids. This is for grownups.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Um, you should go to Maximumfun.org and check out all the great podcasts there that you would enjoy. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, and you can tweet at us @stillbuff. 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]

**Sydnee:** Ready to get those nacho fries now?

**Rileigh:** Yes, I am. Oh my God, I'm so excited.

**Taylor:** Nacho fries?!

**Rileigh:** I love nacho fries.

**Sydnee:** [unintelligible] no fry. They're my fries.

**Rileigh:** They're my fries.

**Sydnee:** Ookay.

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Sydnee:** Was that good?

**Rileigh:** No.

[music plays]

**Biz:** Hi, I'm Biz, host of *One Bad Mother*. Whether you're a parent, or just know kids exist in the world, join us each week as we honestly share what it's like to be a parent.

**Speaker Two:** I signed my stepson up for a camp that is actually in another state. I feel really stupid, and I don't think we're gonna get the money back!

**Speaker Three:** And then he found out that the car manual is a book about cars! So now he's reading our car manual.

**Speaker Four:** [stammering] [frustrated groan].

**Biz:** So join us each week as we judge less, laugh more, and remind you that you are doing a great job. Download *One Bad Mother* on [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org), and yes, there will be swears.

[music and ad end]

[chord]

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